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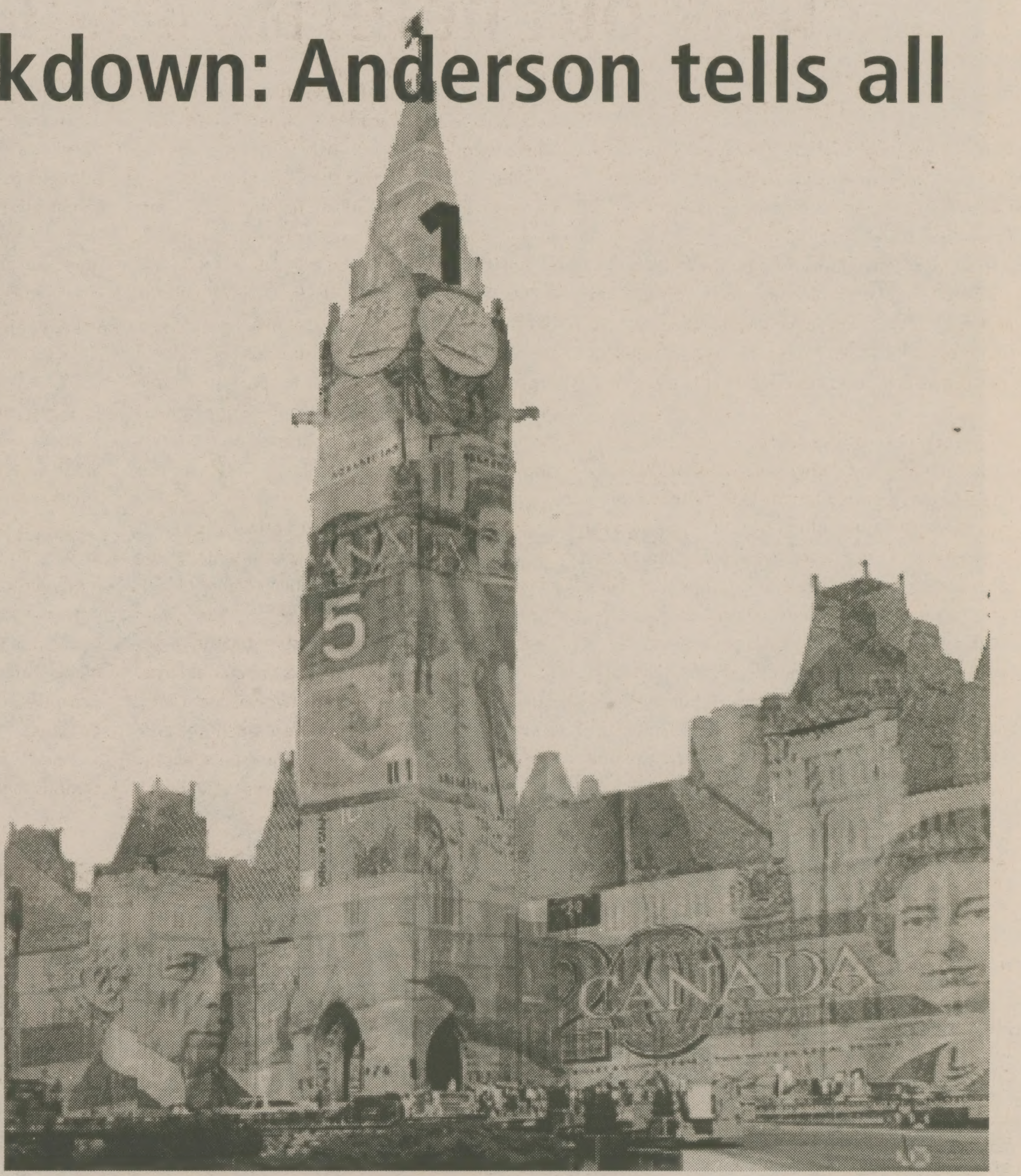
by Robin Platts



graphic by jeffrey Weston

The federal government has money, and they're going to spend it. That was the message from Victoria MP and Federal Environment Minister David Anderson in an interview regarding last week's federal budget.

"The main thing is Canadians' needs, first in healthcare," said Anderson, adding that "healthcare requirements are the biggest driving factor," as well as the environment, the needs of low-income groups and the need for increased military spending.

The 2003 budget is certainly not restrained. Some critics have said it harkens back to the Trudeau-era Liberals, and one media pundit likened it to "Michael Jackson on a Las Vegas shopping spree." Anderson said the free-spending budget was a result of the feds having money to burn.

"If we'd had a poor economic performance, we wouldn't have been able to do it," he said. "But we had it and there were needs and so we spent it."

"We've had the most incredible economic year," Anderson said. "We're the only G-7 country that's in the black. Our economic performance has been better than any country in the world in the last year.

"There are human needs that we need to respond to. Now is the time to get a few things tucked away."

Anderson said environmental concerns were a big factor in the budget, firstly for the Kyoto accord, but also to address the need for upgraded water and sewer systems on First Nations' reserves.

"In terms of dollars, this is the greenest budget Canada has ever had," Anderson said. The budget commits $3 billion to environmental initiatives.

In terms of the environment, Anderson said technology development is key. "I drive a hybrid car, a Toyota. It gets 55 miles to the gallon." He added that, through technological advances, "we can double the mileage of trucks on the road."

Anderson sees plenty of opportunity for development in terms of fuel efficiency, but said it's not easy to get the automotive industry to agree that they should be actively involved.

Inevitably, much of the environmental portion of the budget ($400 million a year) will go towards Kyoto.

As far as those who oppose Kyoto, Anderson said, "The critics have to get their heads out of the sand," pointing out that the "best scientific brains, including some at UVic" have said Kyoto is the right way to go.

Anderson feels that the public at large is behind Kyoto.

"The public understands this," he said. "Even in Alberta, for only a very short period did the government lose the support of the majority of Albertans. And that was after heavy advertising by the [provincial] government."

"We need to get the world on the right course," he said. "We're pretty optimistic that this will benefit the economy as well as ordinary citizens."

Anderson rejected the notion that the budget's big spending has anything to do with the fact that it is the last budget of Jean Chretien's run as Prime Minister.

"Anyone who thinks that one or two spending items are a type of legacy... it doesn't make sense," he said, and reiterated that it comes down to the federal government having the money to spend.

On a local level, Anderson is aware of the conflict at UVic over campus development. As far as cutting down trees in Cunningham Woods is concerned, Anderson said the university administration "haven't yet informed me why it's a good idea. They've yet to persuade me."

Anderson added, "I've always felt UVic made a mistake building on the nesting area of the skylark," in reference to the university's decision in the late '60s to erect the Business and Economics building over a meadow where skylarks nested.

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It's lonely out here: Dispatches from a desolate campus election

by John Thompson

Candidates outnumbered onlookers during the first UVic Students' Society (UVSS) all-candidates forum Tuesday inside the sparsely populated David Lam auditorium.

The forum was dominated by the Putting Students First slate, which only faces competition in two of the four executive positions of the board of directors, and three extra candidates for the 11 available seats as directors at large.

Expect more of the same

Jude Coates is the only candidate for UVSS chair. Coates pledged to continue lobbying for increased government funding to lessen student debt. She said she's heard her share of horror stories from students struggling to pay their bills after last year's 30 per cent tuition increase. Coates also promised to join other community groups to confront provincial cutbacks.

"Students are my main concern, but it doesn't stop there," she said.

Coates was elected as a UVSS director at large last year, after volunteering her time to start the Armed With Understanding lecture series. She became director of academics when Robert Oluka resigned in November.

While acknowledging she faces no competition, Coates said she has an "open-door policy" and encourages students with questions to stop by her office inside the SUB.

Also unchallenged is Erik Haensel, running for director of academics. An executive member of the Students Against War group, Haensel helped organize next week's walkout for peace. Haensel promises to support causes like the Cunningham Woods tree-sit and other confrontational but non-violent protests.

More beer parties on the horizon

Scott Payne and Mike Tan, contestants for the director of services title, both have plenty of volunteer experience.

Payne served on the Camosun Student Society, and is presently a UVSS director at large. Tan was a resident adviser for two years at UVic and was involved with both the Golden Key and commerce students' societies. Both spoke about increasing the number of social events like beer gardens on campus.

The major difference between the two is that Payne is a seasoned Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) campaigner, well-versed in catchphrases about openness and accessability, and fiery in his condemnation of the provincial government. Tan has no similar experience – which could either be a handicap or an asset, depending on how useful and productive you think recent student campaigns have been.

Have your cake and eat – if it's affordable

Joanna Groves faces competition from Brett Smith for the director of finance seat. However, Smith was not present at the forum.

Groves said she's opposed to opening the SUB to big business, and that she'd support more fair-trade, union-made, organic products – if they're actually affordable.

Despite deteriorating relations between SUB management and the Steelworkers' union, Groves said she's hopeful common ground can be found.

And don't expect to see the now-defunct campus nightclub Vertigo open anytime soon.

"I'd love to see it turned into a nightclub, but I've also had a big dose of reality," Groves said. First, she'd like to see it turned into a viable space to rent to students and other groups.

Groves became involved in student politics two years ago, competing against the Putting Students First slate by joining with conservative students on campus. "I fully concede that when I first ran I was naïve and uninformed," she later said. "I was very quickly turned around."

Candidate poo-poos politics

The most unusual candidate in attendence was Mark Redgwell, who sported a brown smock, leather pilot's helmet and a guitar that he strummed while crooning, "I'm a poo-star."

The 31-year-old law student said he's wanted to run a joke campaign since he began attending UVic four years ago, but never had the time.

If elected, he said he'd probably resign since he won't be in Victoria in May. Still, he's curious to see the voter turnout.

"Any political point I might have is completely incidential to the silliness of it," he said.

Students asked to shell out more cash in referenda

by John Thompson

Students could end up snoozing through this year's student elections with the lack of competing candidates, but they'll likely want to keep an eye on three referenda questions that ask whether they support paying for enhanced health coverage, a dental plan, and extra funding to the campus food bank and UVic Sustainability Project.

Jonas Gifford is the student union's director of finance and proponent of the first two referenda questions. The first deals with upping the price of the existing health plan, which had its price set by referendum in 1994. Since then, the cost of inflation has increased the price of health services, and the provincial government has reduced what coverage it offers. As a result, the student health plan at UVic last year dropped prescription drug coverage from 80 to 70 per cent. It also reduced the amount of paramedical coverage it offers, which includes services like massage and physiotherapy.

"We've had to make a lot of cuts to health plan services," Gifford said.

For a $9.30 increase per semester, students will have prescription coverage bumped back up to 80 per cent, along with increased paramedical coverage. Currently, the health plan only covers $10 per paramedical visit, but the new plan will cover up to 80 per cent. In other words: A $40 visit to the chiropractor currently costs students $30. With the new plan, students will only pay $8.

Question two asks students to support introducing a dental plan.

"Most student unions have a dental plan, and nobody knows why UVic doesn't, although according to our surveys, students think we should," Gifford said. The plan will cost $118.20 for a year, or $9.85 per month on top of the current health plan fees. It will cover 70 per cent of regular services such as cleanings and polishings, with similar coverage for more expensive treatments like wisdom tooth extraction. Like the health plan, students would be able to opt out if they have existing coverage.

The third question asks students to pay 50 cents per semester, which will be split between the UVic Sustainability Project and the campus food bank.

"The amount of change you lose in your couch could fund valuable services like this," said Andre Vallillee, who is the proponent of this referenda question.

He said both groups share the same referenda question because "they're both like-minded organizations," but added it was mostly because "it was just easier for us to pool the resources."

Staffing for the sustainability project, which is located in the Sedgewick building, has been erratic this year because of funding constraints, he said. Currently they're dependent on a federal grant, which will expire in March. A steady amount of student funding will provide a dependable source of revenue for them to pursue campus projects.

"Clearly, over the past year we've seen a lot of interest in how UVic develops," Vallillee said. Examples of future projects could include monitoring paper consumption in different departments, or measuring the ecological footprint of the Student Union Building. Focus will also be given to increasing student awareness and representation during campus development. Other projects include ecosystem mapping of the campus environment, and encouraging classes to develop projects that focus locally. On March 10, the project will hold a student round table on campus development.

The cash will provide similar stability for the food bank, which is currently dependant on donations from the student union's board of directors. According to Amanda Prenger, the bank's co-ordinator, usage has gone through the roof since tuition fees increased last year.

"It's hard, because everyone's stretched right now," she said.

Currently, shelves in the food bank's office in the SUB basement hold corn soup, Mr. Noodles and expired jars of mayonnaise. Higher quality foods go quickly, she explained: $300 worth of food was exhausted within a week recently.

New funding will also be directed to new initiatives, such as holding communal meals and providing more education about what a regular, balanced diet should look like for students.

There is no official opposition to any referenda on campus.

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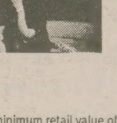

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Before...

After...

photo by John Thompson

Martlet managing editor Craig Battle takes one for the team. His charge: Being too damn tall. His last words: "I hate you fucking guys." His verdict: "I hate chocolate."

Let them eat π, sayeth engineers

by Suzanne Beaubien

Got a beef with a roommate? Someone leave the toilet seat up again? Well, it's almost March, the official kickoff of the ninth annual Order of Pi – so prepare for revenge.

The event is organized by – who else? – engineering students. Beau Nychka, a.k.a. "Piominous the Third," is the group's Grand Inquisitor, presiding over all trial proceedings. He said pieing is all in good fun, and can be a good way to get in a ribbing at a friend.

"Let's say your roommate used up the last of the coffee and didn't replace it," he said. "You'd give us all the info on where and when to pie them in a public place."

The fourth-year engineering student said the proceedings are very official, with an actual warrant given to the pie-ee. People can only be pied once in a year, he said, and the warrant provides evidence that will help the pied person beat future charges.

A pie is bought for a minimum of $10 and all proceeds go to the Queen Alexandra Children's Hospital. Save-on-Foods donates all the pies used, the most popular of which is the chocolate cream pie. Potential victims can dispute the charges.

"If the person wants to prove their innocence, they have to beat the charges by $5," said Nychka.

But don't think you can send a pie to David Turpin's office just yet: Nychka said the Order of Pi doesn't allow any "vindictive pieings," and will check with any politicians, faculty or administration before the court proceedings can begin. But most people are good sports; if the price is right, they usually will agree to be pied, he said.

All pieings must be supported by a charge, such as "Being too damn tall," and cannot be anonymous.

"It has to be in good humour," said Nychka. "You can't pie an ex-girlfriend for being a bitch."

Nychka said the engineering students usually raise around $2,000, with an average of 100 pieings in a week. This year, Nychka said, they hope to raise $10,000.

"You gotta have high hopes," he said.

Past pieings of note have included local radio celebrities Ed Bain and Cruise from Hot 103, as well as a recent pieing of the New VI's weather guy.

In the March 2000 Order of Pi proceedings there was even a near-pieing of then-Finance Minister Paul Martin. Morgan Stewart, then chair of the UVSS, had agreed to pay $150 in students' society money for the pieing.

However, Martin refused to participate, citing inadequate media coverage as well as questionable fund-raising procedures. As students surrounded the minister's van, Stewart donned the Order of Pi hood and was creamed in the face with a chocolate pie.

He was charged with "falsely summoning the Order of Pi."

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Drop classes, not bombs

Walkout for peace to feature local bands

by Robin Platts

In case the threat of an impending war isn't enough to get UVic students to skip a couple classes, perhaps the beat-infused sounds of Velvet and melodic rock of Amps to Eleven will tip the scale. The two local bands will perform in front of the SUB Wednesday, March 5, as part of the anti-war event, A Celebration of the Prospects of Peace.

In addition to the musical acts, the three-hour event will feature several speakers, including Dr. Mary Wynne-Ashford and VIPIRG's Stacey Chappell.

Put on by the group Students Against War, event organizers hope to have students walk out of classes at noon on Wednesday, in protest of a war against Iraq.

Jude Coates, event organizer and UVSS director of academics, said the purpose of the walkout is "to express distaste for warmongering and celebrate possibilities for peace on the international scene. The way to start that is to get together and share views and opinions about the political climate and brainstorm ideas for progressive change in a collective manner."

"It's going to be a fun event," said Erik Haensel of Students Against War. "We'll deal with serious issues, but we'll keep the atmosphere festive."

Haensel said that, regardless of what positions governments might take, "the growing anti-war movement is showing that people are opposed to the war."

Haensel hopes the walkout will "raise awareness of the anti-war movement and the plight of people in Iraq," adding that it is good for the people of Iraq to see people around the world are opposed to the war.

Similarly, Coates said it is important on a local level for students and community members to know they are not alone in being opposed to a war against Iraq.

"The anti-war movement is gaining momentum," Coates said, "and it will have further influence on decision-making processes in the high echelons of the world political scheme."

"It's important that students and community members unite to express a collective opposition to a war on Iraq," said Coates, "because strong, outspoken communities can have a huge impact on government policy."

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Students of Colour Collective in danger of folding

by Suzanne Beaubien

UVic's Students of Colour Collective (SCC) is in danger of folding, due to expected low membership next year. All 10 active members of the constituency group are graduating this spring, which will leave the collective without enough members to retain their representation to the board of directors, or their office space in the SUB.

> We're working together and it's causing a shift. It's actually changing the face of UVic.
>
> Simrita Sidhu

Both SCC representatives to the board Rubina Sidhu and outreach coordinator Simrita Sidhu said the group has had a difficult time finding new members because of the way students perceive the organization.

"One thing that we've found talking to people is that they think the Students of Colour Collective is really radical," said Rubina, "and so they think that if they come here they have to be really political or they have to be totally left-wing."

Simrita agreed. "I've been a student here since '95, and it's always had a reputation. It's been inaccessible," she said. "We've got to figure out how to make it more open and inclusive."

The current SCC has only been active on campus for about two years. Though the SCC initially received constituency group status in 1998 at the students' society semi-annual AGM, they became dormant the next year when their membership dipped below the minimum requirement of three students, which they need to maintain the group's executive.

Graduate student Adam Rudder brought the collective back to life in 2000, becoming their outreach coordinator. He coordinated the first Critical Multicultural Potluck on campus, raising the group's profile, and gathering over 50 students on the SCC listserve.

Though their numbers are low, the group continues to be important because it provides students of colour with an avenue to voice concerns to the board of directors, said Rubina.

"We have board representation," said Rubina. "Our specific goal is to have a voice for the students of colour, who tend to be marginalized and get silenced in all aspects of politics. So with our ability to work with faculty and with UVSS, we're always in constant communication. A lot of students don't realize that there is communication between students and faculty."

Rubina and Simrita agree the university could be doing more to support students of colour, rather than leave the SCC to fill the gap.

"Our campus is hugely white, and although there seems to be a huge population of people who are racialized, there is just not enough support that people can access," Simrita said. "That is a huge gap and failure of UVic and it is a struggle in itself."

photo by Suzanne Beaubien

Another one bites the dust? Members Rubina Sidhu, Kemi Craig and Hari Alluri sure hope not. They are all graduating this year and are worried about the future for students of colour at UVic.

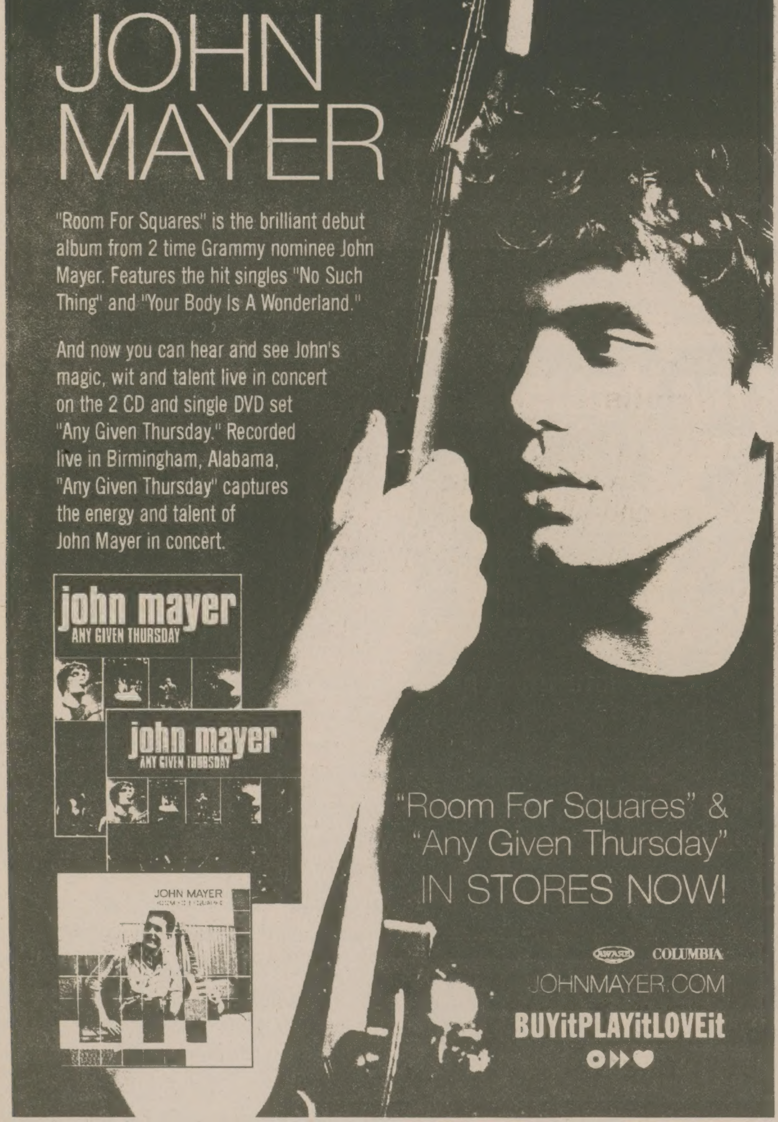
In addition to organizing events for Diversity Month, the group has several projects on the go. Their most recent undertaking is the production of *Pulse: A Journal of Anti-colonial Thought and Expression*, which began last semester as a project in one of Rubina's English classes.

Both of the Sidhu sisters said the group has changed their university experience for the better.

"I feel for the first time that I'm involved with a student organization that is actually beginning to work. We're working together and it's causing a shift, not only on campus, but in our politics and what we're doing. I think it's actually changing the face of UVic," said Simrita. "It would be a disappointment [to see the group fold], because we're not even where we want to be."

"I believe you can't do it on your own. Any work that's from the margins, you need to do it with people and collectify."

The Students of Colour Collective meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m. SUB B003.



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Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do?

Martlet writer spends her Valentine's Day with Campus Security

by Holly Pattison

10 p.m. Valentine's Day. Operation Salt and Vinegar. Campus Security officer Michael Darling watches out for suspicious characters with salty fingers. Two vending machines were hit tonight, and, in addition to stealing coin boxes, vandals snatched an armful of salt and vinegar chips. Last week, two other campus machines were robbed of cash and the same kind of chips. A coincidence? I think not.

It's a weird feeling to drive around on campus sidewalks, especially at night. But cruising paved paths and parking lots is part of Campus Security's pro-active approach to policing. Throughout the night, teams of security officers circle buildings, bump over curbs, enter exits, and dodge bunnies instead of bodies. They skim around buildings on foot, in security trucks, or on stealth bikes with silent hubcaps. They flush out trouble like sheepdogs tending their territory and guarding the flock.

"It's called pro-active patrol," says Darling, pulling the new Ford Ranger out of Campus Security parking. "The presence of uniforms and patrol vehicles act as deterrents to people thinking about doing something they shouldn't."

It's 11 p.m. on a Friday night, but only a few heads mingle in Felicita's. There's a live-music event at the Grad Centre, which prompts a neighbourhood complaint about the noise right at 11 p.m. Darling casually talks to the organizer, who agrees to keep the back doors shut and have the band turn it down for the next set.

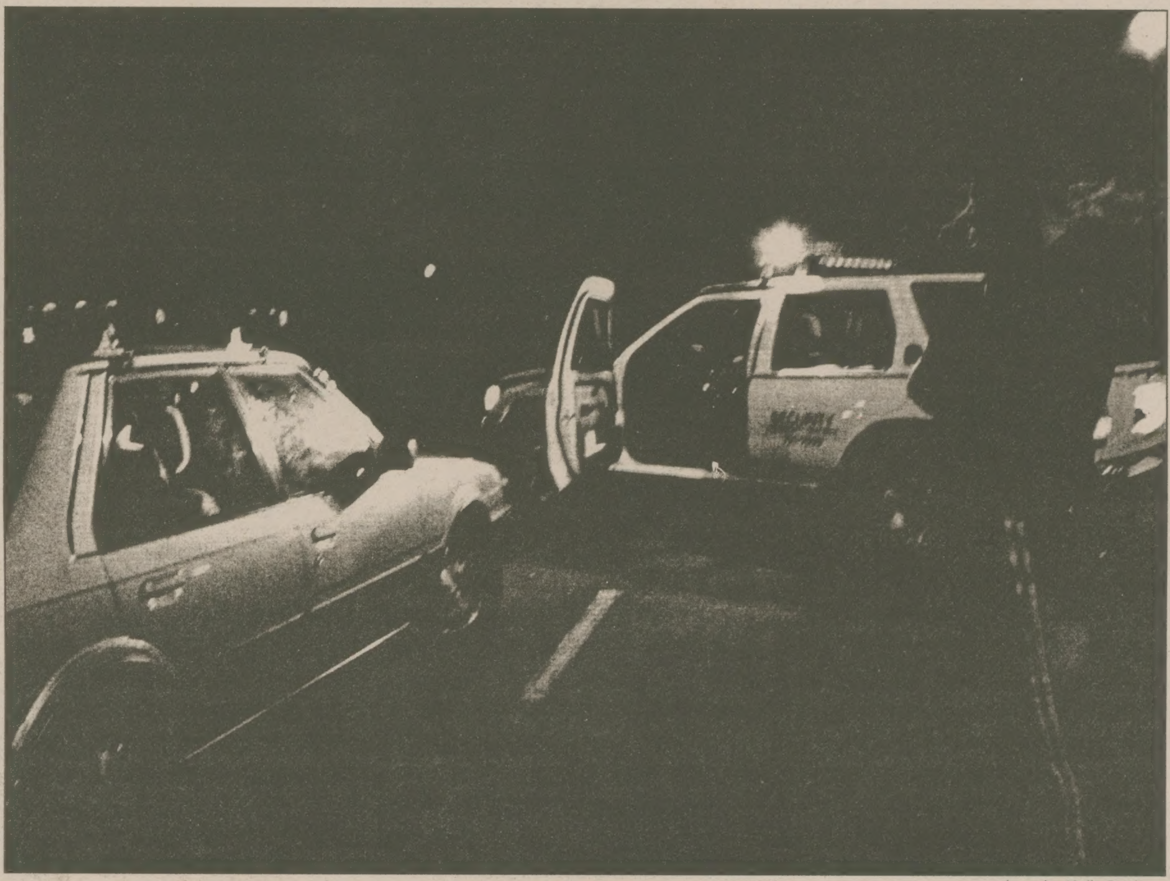

photo by Holly Pattison

Gone in 60 Seconds: Officer Darling eyes up a stolen vehicle in a campus parking lot.

A six-pack of students tilts their way down the sidewalk from the party toward the SUB. A few of them dangle piñata parts from strings, kicking the coloured shapes and shouting they've invented a new sport called "tethurbawl." Darling gives them the nod.

Aside from the security uniform and truck, 26-year-old Darling relies on communication skills to keep people in line, which seems to work. "I get 99 per cent compliance," says Darling. "I tell them, 'My way is the easy way'." The easy way means to cooperate, move along, turn the volume down, quit harassing bunnies or just stop doing whatever it is you're doing that's causing the problem. The hard way, of course, can earn a quick cuffing and a police-assisted trip to jail. The message boils down to: Don't be an ass. If you must be an ass, at least respect the people and property on campus.

Take, for instance, late night disc golfers – those sleepless packs of frisbee flingers who roam their campus course at night. When the game first appeared, it almost always involved a lot of alcohol and noise. Rather than shut them down, Darling and other security officers talked to guzzling golfers about the problems inherent in combining alcohol with whizzing weighted discs in the dark. They were encouraged to not ruin the nighttime experience for everyone. That was a few years ago, and there have been no serious issues since. "Some golfers even call to confess to the occasional broken window," says Darling. "They're out there all the time, in all kinds of weather. I don't understand the attraction." But he knows the lay of the golf course, and he knows when not to stick his head out the back door of the Human and Social Development building. That's pro-active patrolling in action. Everyone wins.

Next to the McKinnon Gym, another group of students walks around the back staircase with a video camera. They're following some enthusiastic guy who's holding a snowboard and wearing a crash helmet. After a brief chat with Darling, they move away from the staircase railings. "I keep seeing that guy," he says, shaking his head and watching the rear view mirror. If Darling truly is a deterrent, he likely just saved someone a few minor injuries – at least for now.

Darling pulls the Ranger up to the doors of the HSD and MacLaurin buildings for the nightly lockdown. He checks each classroom and shuts out the lights. It's not really part of the job to turn out lights, but Darling says he's compulsively Powersmart. The darkness not only saves energy, it's another deterrent for anyone considering breaking in. "I can find my way in the dark in here," he says. "Can they? I don't think so."

Near the David Lam Auditorium, Darling receives a call on his portable radio – man spotted inside the Phoenix building, which should now be empty and locked. Darling heads over on foot and enters through the side door. He checks out the hallways, listens, and points to the pry marks on the vending machine. There's noise from one of the theatre shops directly ahead. "Stay back a minute," he says. It turns out to be two other security officers checking the building out from the other side. If there was someone in the Phoenix, they're gone now. The building is clear and secure.

Darling continues the prowl. He doesn't find the salt n' vinegar thieves, but does notice something suspicious in the parking lot next to the music wing. He watches a group of laughing women get into one of the three remaining cars in the lot and drive away. Darling checks the remaining two vehicles. One fits the description of a car stolen earlier in the night that was reported by the Oak Bay Police Department.

"This is a popular place to ditch stolen cars," he says, walking around the grey Mazda. "Lots of foot traffic during the day."

He beams a flashlight into the car and waits for someone from the Oak Bay detachment to show up and deal with the car. The driver's window is wide open, a key sits in the change tray, a grey fleece pullover sits in a lump on the backseat.

"No sign of forced entry," says Darling. He chats with the Oak Bay officer and another security team. With radioed chests, the conversations are piecemeal – they stop talking in mid-sentence to listen and respond to a message from their dispatch, then pick up the conversation without missing a beat.

continued on page 7

Summer Camp Jobs in the U.S.A.
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FAMOUS PLAYERS
FAMOUS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

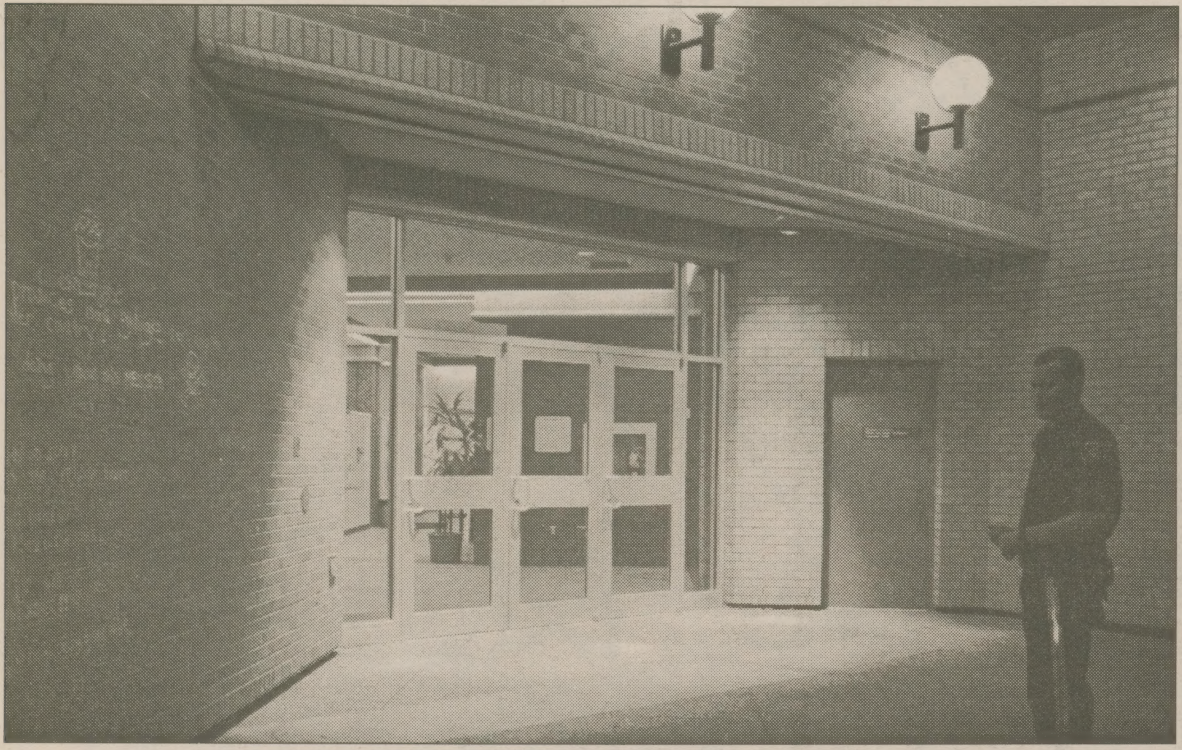

photo by Holly Pattison

"Interesting," says Officer Darling, regarding chalk grafitti outside the Human and Social Development Building. Darling...Valentine's Day...get it?

continued from page 6

Despite a few random acts of theft and the stolen car recovery, there's not much crime on campus. Things usually feel and look pretty safe at UVic.

"You'll notice around campus that things like broken signs get fixed quickly and graffiti gets painted over consistently," says Darling. More deterrents. Like parental advice about bedrooms: you're less likely to mess it up if you keep it clean.

First- and second-year students living on campus often have the reputation for being heavy partiers, especially in September before the realities of classes and homework sink in. But, according to resident life co-ordinator Lisa Gibson, the current students in residence don't cause many problems. "The general atmosphere changes every weekend," she says. "But they're a respectful group of competent adults."

Darling agrees. "It's usually people from off campus who stir up trouble," he says. "It's good that UVic's not adjacent to town."

As if on cue, a call comes in about a fight, pepper spray and a large group of teens gathering on Henderson Road, next to campus. It's a house party gone sour – you know it's bad when your guests break out the pepper spray. The commotion quickly attracts Campus Security vehicles and several Saanich police cruisers. A guy in off-white baggy jeans, splattered with what looks like blood but what must be spray droplets, stands at the roadside blinking his red-rimmed eyes hard. He curses in between drags of a cigarette. Darling tells him to not rub; it'll only make it worse.

After the pepper spray scene is under control, he suggests a visit to one of the resident advisors. "You can ask her about what life in res is like," he says. But Darling's charm doesn't work on everyone. After weaving through a maze of open balconies and pungent stairwells to find her room, resident advisor Jan Walker is non-compliant. "I can't talk to you," she says. "I'm not allowed." Why not? "I can't say," she says, narrowly eyeballing Darling as if to say, "Get. Out. Now. And take that *Martlet* reporter with you."

After a few more hours of circling, peeping into the dark pockets of campus, warning Mystic Vale musicians to keep it down, offering to help a queasy-looking student in residence who's clinging to a staircase railing, checking in on the tree camp, Darling parks near residence to watch the final stream of students get safely home. They pass in groups of two, four, 10. It's after 2 a.m. but it's mild; many people are in short-sleeved T-shirts. Two girls, both with straight faces and their arms folded tight against their chests, follow their two boisterously slurring dates. "They have a bit more tonight than you two?" Darling asks the girls. "Yeah... a lot more," replies one. Darling makes a comment like "some Valentine's Day, eh?" and the girls finally crack a smile and agree. Most of the passing groups holler and wave at Darling. But not everyone appreciates his pro-active presence.

"Campus Security fuckers. Wannabe cops," yells one guy. He's loping behind his happy-drunk buddies who just leaned in the truck window for high-fives. Darling shrugs it off. "Bad night, I guess."

When the foot and taxi traffic stops – the flock is safe – it's time to circle sidewalks again, loop through campus until the night shift is over, keep wolves at bay, watch for salty trails of chip crumbs.

Ewok Village Enters "Phase Two"

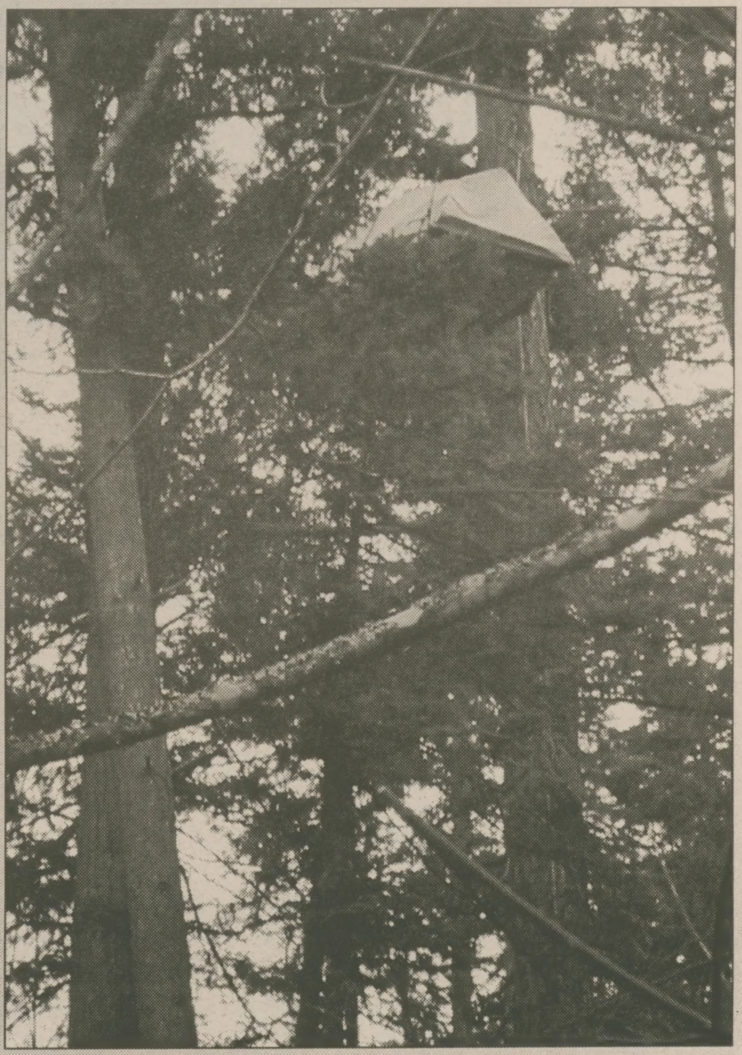

photo by Jeff Andrew

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, UVic President David Turpin approved a site for the new Engineering and Computer Science building. The six-story facility, to be completed by 2005, will cover the parking lot beside the Engineering Lab Wing and up to 26.3 metres of forest to the west. A protest was held on Feb. 17 outside the Business and Economics Building, urging the Campus Development Committee to recommend an alternate site on the lawn beside the Engineering Lab Wing.

In response to the decision, activists moved the Cunningham Woods tree-sit to a Douglas fir tree adjacent to the parking lot. The new platform, twice as high as the old one, is in one of the 40 or so trees scheduled to be cleared to make way for the new building. For more on campus development, see "Saving the forest for the trees," on page 10.

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University
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To: All students currently registered at the University of Victoria

From: Senate Committee on the University Budget

You are invited to participate in a study being conducted by the Senate Committee on the University Budget for the Senate on the reasons why students may find it difficult, or impossible, to complete their degree. This study is important because the University, under its Strategic Plan, is working toward removing barriers to completion of degree, and needs the information to redirect financial and student support resources to where they will do the most good.

All students presently registered at the University, and a group of students who have left the University, are being asked to participate in this study. Another of the aims of the UVic Strategic Plan is to increase diversity in student retention, and the Committee is also interested in finding out whether perceptions of the barriers students face in completing their degree vary between the "traditional" student (18-24 age group, full time status), and "non-traditional" students (mature, visible minority, aboriginal, part time, off-campus, etc.).

Participation in this survey is voluntary. Should you choose to participate, the Committee is asking you to complete the survey by the end of classes in the spring term, which is Friday, April 4th, 2003. It will take about one half hour to complete. If you are filling out the study questionnaire on line, your unique password to bring up the survey document is your student number. To access the survey, click on the following link: **http://survey.inst.uvic.ca/student_funding.asp**

Dr. Peter Liddell, Chair
Senate Committee on the University Budget

Editorial

Bush. Wack.

It's frustrating to watch the United States grandstanding, demanding that other countries line up beside the superpower to gear up for a war against Iraq.

It's frustrating to watch Tony Blair and other world leaders scurrying to Bush's side, like geeky schoolchildren trying to suck up to the playground bully.

Why should we go to war? Because *Bush says so*? No matter what he says – and for a guy with a bigger ego than Paul McCartney, what he says must go – it's just not good enough.

If Saddam Hussein is really developing an arsenal of deadly weapons and planning to threaten the "free world," then okay, send the troops in and shut his operation down.

If we can see some proof that the world at large is in some danger, maybe we can get behind Bush and Blair. But, for God's sake, show us the smoking gun. Give us something here. Anyone with a modicum of brains is surely sick of Bush's ambiguous talk of threats to freedom that are never clearly identified. It just won't wash anymore. And if he doesn't give us a smoking warhead, then we're forced to cynically assume that he's just after the oil.

Proof. Give us proof, not crappy rhetoric. Bush's warmongering is about as meaningful as Paul McCartney's post-9/11 song, "Freedom." Like Macca's turd of a song, it's devoid of any meaning. Garbage slogans, vague references, fear mongering, etc.

And back off with the references to Hitler. Maybe Saddam is the new Hitler, that's not for me to say.

But if he is, prove it. And let's not forget it took the U.S. a couple of years to get on board for World War II. But then Germany didn't have oil, did they? The United States' lack of desire to control the market for beer steins and lederhosen might have been a factor in their hesitation to send troops over half a century ago.

Thank God some world leaders have had the guts to stand up to the bully and not commit to support Bush's war. Chretien may yet show some real courage and take a stand, but for now he's on the fence. Which isn't great, but it's more than can be said for certain other world "leaders."

The sight of Tony Blair grovelling at Bush's side – despite the opposition of many of his MPs – is getting tiresome. Hopefully, Chretien will have the stones not to do so when he's finally forced to take a clear position. Blair has already taken a clear position – on all fours, trousers down, in front of Dubya. Hopefully, Chretien, like a handful of other world leaders, will have the dignity to stay on his feet and zipped up.

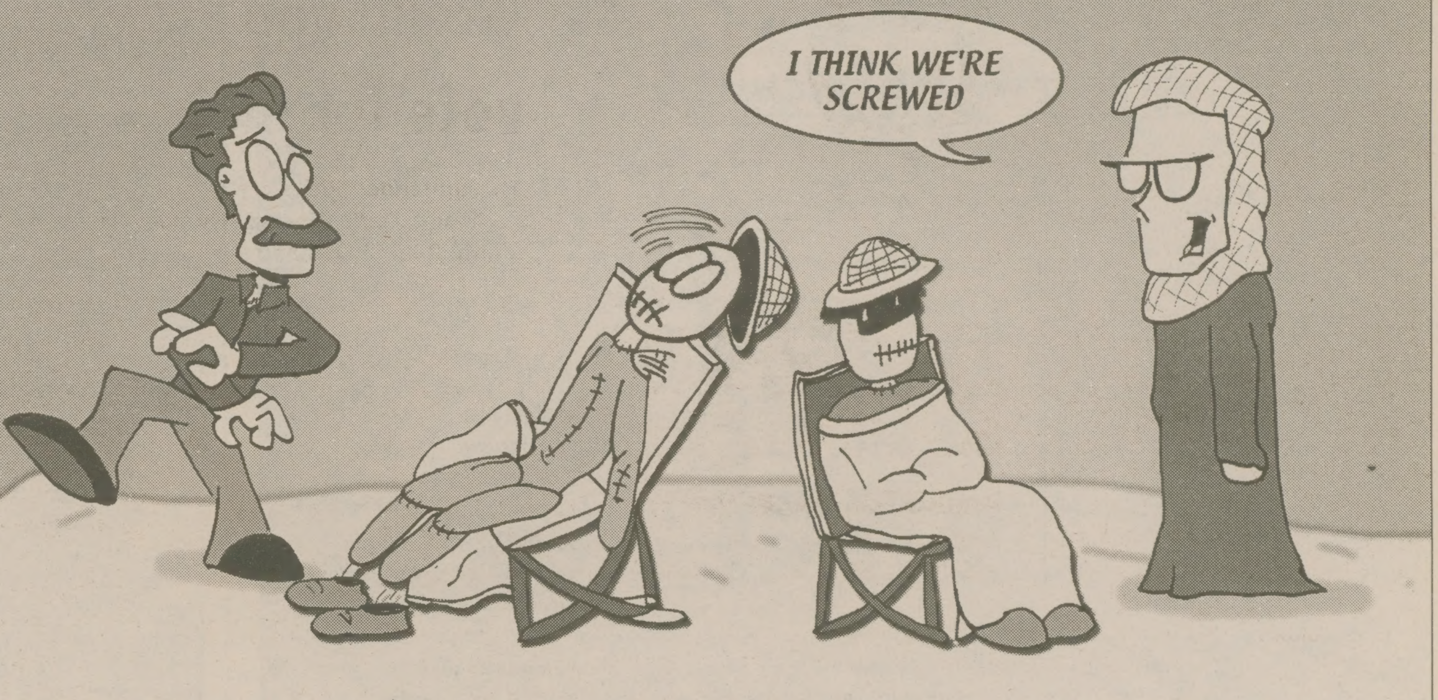
The anti-war movement is growing, but what will it take for Bush and company to back down? If every other world leader takes a firm stand and demands to see some proof – some fucking proof, is that so much to ask? – maybe Dubya will be shown for what he is.

War is hell, no matter what the reasons, but going to war just because a power-crazed Texan and his geeky British sidekick tell us to is just plain ridiculous.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings (each Friday at 11:30 am, in SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read?

Write us, or write *for* us: martlet@uvic.ca



The "Human Shields" in Iraq

Letters

Technology kudos

I am writing to express my appreciation for last week's science and technology issue.

It is heartening to see a paper so concerned with fair representation in government/media/business actually getting off its ass to try to represent the broader campus community. I think it goes a long way toward establishing credibility and engendering respect among those on campus who may have felt marginalized by your coverage in the past. Good on ya' and keep up the good work!

Sean McCann

A letter about the Valerie Williams billboard

I wonder what UVic women's studies student Valerie Williams would think of this for a discussion-starting billboard:

"Non Sequitur, Hyperbole, Conflation, Double Speak, Mendacity, Equivocation. Is This Women's Studies?"

Randall Gerlach

Another Valerie Williams letter

Guess who didn't get anything for Valentine's Day?

Ms. Williams is so anxious to be our moral conscience, so eager to speak up for others, yet so far removed from reality that it is impossible to take her seriously. In her desperate attempt to make victims out of women and girls she ends up being dismissed by the very people who could help her. I have to believe that women like Ms. Williams don't really want a solution to the problems they list, because what would they have to complain about if there was one? They alienate the average person with their constant whining instead of looking for a common ground.

Guess what? Everything listed on that billboard happens to men as well. Violence is a terrible thing but it certainly doesn't happen exclusively to women and it certainly is not perpetuated exclusively by men. But until these women and their teachers acknowledge that fact, I don't see where the growth can come from.

As long as women continue to be indoctrinated in outdated aggressive feminist rhetoric, men and women like myself will continue to tune them out and view them as extremists.

Ben Alway

Don't shush the baby!

On Jan. 13, I attended *The Vagina Monologues* and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was funny, serious, moving and empowering. While I enjoyed the production, I found the actions of some in the audience to be rather peculiar.

There were some instances throughout the play when a baby could be heard. The distraction was minimal but still noticeable. There were a few people sitting in front of me that would turn around every time the baby let out a noise. Their faces showed a look of disdain and utter contempt.

First of all, do they really think that they could quiet the infant by glaring back at a baby that was 25 rows behind them? Second, *The Vagina Monologues* was in large part dealing with the empowerment of women. The women that looked back in disgust because there was a baby that cried out once in a while were completely insensitive. Should a mother not have the right to attend a public function with her child? Sure, the child may make a little or maybe even a lot of noise, but we shouldn't deny either of them the opportunity to attend a function because we find the noise a little disruptive. Should lower income mothers be denied access to public outings because they might not be able to afford a babysitter? Should any mother be denied access because she is not comfortable leaving her infant in the care of others? Having a child is not a jail sentence. Those whose faces displayed such disgust at being bothered by the cries of an infant should look within themselves and realize how selfish they were acting and feeling.

Shawn Baybutt

A few bad apples

RE: "No More Late-Nite Copying at Zap!" (Jan. 30):

I would like to express my concern over the fact that the people involved in making copies from a tampered copier do not even appear to be getting a slap on the wrist for their actions. Regardless of who disabled the card-reader (it is stated in the article that "it is too difficult to prove who caused the damage"), all of the people who took advantage of the broken copier are guilty of theft. Now, the rest of the student population has to put up with limited resources. I'm sure I'm not the only person who comes up to the campus after a day of work to do some copying to assist my research for schoolwork. I realize I'm dragging up the same concerns that Zap! manager Bishop stated in the article, but why are these people allowed to get away with this?

Geraldine Bulosan

International Socialists talk tough

This letter is regarding VIPIRG's upcoming fundraiser, "The Activist Olympics." We, the Victoria branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), as last year's gold medal winners, would like to formally challenge several groups seemingly based on campus.

The International Socialists were unable to get a team together last year, but we hope they can this year so that we may beat the pants off them. Similarly, the UVSS and *Martlet* fell short of developing a full team and we would like nothing more than to cream them at this year's event.

The Forest Action Network has a club on campus, and if they could come down from their Cunningham Woods tree-sit momentarily, we would take great pleasure in sending them back with not even a bronze medal.

Although not officially an organization or group, we most-excitedly would like the opportunity to put Ben Isitt and his "Crusaders" to shame (you know who you are). Lastly, to CFUV, who put all they had into last year's event and came short of winning – you can always try again, friends.

Edward May

Warnica on Iraq: The rebuttal (Part 1)

In the article "Why I am in favor of the Invasion of Iraq" (Feb. 6), R. Warnica claims that "barring divine intervention; Hussein will never be internally disposed." Thus he concludes that without "military interference Hussein's regime will remain in power indefinitely."

An immediate problem with this is his assumption that there are only two options: a spontaneous internal uprising that overthrows Saddam, or an invasion of the country that physically removes his entire military-governmental complex.

This assumption ignores the many other options that could be utilized in the hope of liberating the people of Iraq, and increasing the prospects of world peace.

One option would be to continue with inspections, continue to monitor supply lines while lifting the economic sanctions, and then to install UN peace keepers and humanitarian an educational support on the ground in order to foster and environment that could support democracy. Then free elections could be set up and monitored, and the existing UN infrastructure would help insure their implementation. This is no idealistic wet-dream, rather it is a strategy of democratic expansion that has been developed by the UN special commission on democracy and human rights over the past 15 years.

Democracy is not a concrete thing; it is not like a flag that a victorious army can plant in a defeated country.

Rather it is a way of life that must be generated from the bottom up. Thus, unfortunately in response to the claim that "evil is the only language that Saddam speaks," unless we can wrap our heads around the destabilizing impact of our own society's framing of international issues, war, and thus as Warnica has said, evil, is the only language that we can speak.

Erik Haensel

You want more letters, you got 'em. Take a look at page 9!

[2002/2003]
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UVic's Student Paper

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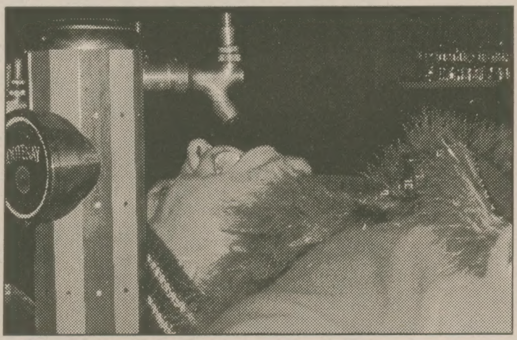
When people come and write for us, we put their names in the contributors list, further up this column. When not enough people come and write, the list is short and we have a bunch of space to fill right here, which is not only asthetically displeasing but also a waste of paper. So write for us. Please.

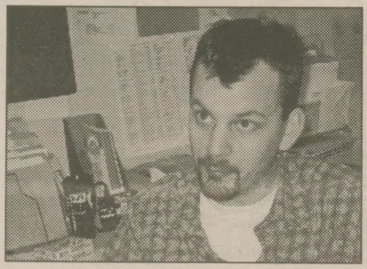
on the spot

Would you vote for me?

The contender: Rich Cole
Campaign staff: Vanessa Neuman, Briony Smith, Robin Platts and Rachelle LeBlanc

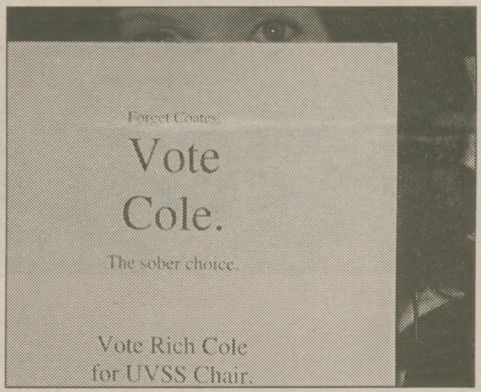


Rich Cole cuts out the middle man



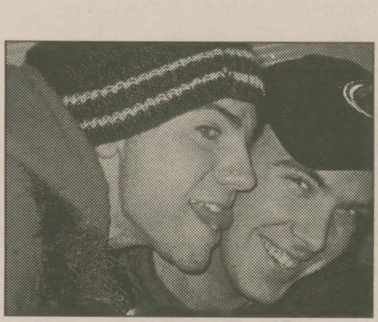
Rich Tones
UVSS Resource Co-ordinator

Rich Tones: (reading) "Forget Coates. Vote Cole. The sober choice. If elected, I will not drink for the first two weeks of May."
Robin: We'd heard there had been some problems before, some issues.
Rich Tones: Issues about Rich Cole? Or about former chairs?
Robin: I'd rather not say.
Rich Tones: A couple of things: You need to get these stamped if you're going to distribute them. Unless it's considered a leaflet.
Robin: It's a leaflet. We'll put a couple of folds in it. It's a leaflet. So would you vote for Rich Cole?
Rich Tones: I would, but I'm not a member of the society.
Briony: Well, as long as we're touching your heart.
Rich Tones: In fact, if you rolled this (poster) up into a sharp point, you could probably make it there.



Jen Burden
3rd year Professional Writing

Jen: Maybe. I'll have to do my research first.
Robin: Do you understand his platform?
Jen: No.
Rich: My platform is a plastic sword to take down the UVic admin.
Robin: No, no. The other platform. "The sober choice."
Rich: Oh yeah, the sober choice. Sorry, I'm drunk already.
Jen: Yeah, I can do it.



UVic Pride office
Aaron McKie & Shawna Logue

Briony: Rich Cole is queer friendly. Would you like some of his literature?
Shawna: "The sober choice"?
Robin: We didn't mention the queer friendly part in the literature. But he is queer friendly.
Shawna: "I will not drink for the first two weeks of May."
Rich: We did some demographics and my campaign crew thought that was the way to go.
Robin: We heard there had been some, uh, problems with some of the UVSS execs, with the drinking… in the past. So we thought this might be a good platform to campaign on.
Shawna: What happens after the two weeks?
Rich: We won't talk about that.
Shawna: I need to know. I can't be bought.
Robin: Remember, Rich Cole is queer friendly.
Rich: You bet.
Robin: How queer friendly are you?
Rich: So queer friendly that I would kiss him (Aaron).
Shawna: *(to Aaron)* Would you kiss him?
Aaron: I have a boyfriend!
Briony: Just on the cheek.
Aaron: I'm not gonna kiss HIM!
Robin: Just a peck on the cheek.
(Aaron gets up and offers Rich a cheek)
(Rich kisses the cheek)
Aaron: Oh, God!

Felicita's
Dan (security) and Nicole (server)

Dan: First two weeks of May? That takes away from our business. I don't actually vote.
Robin: This could be the start – no more being apolitical.
Nicole: Would you sing us a song?
Rich: Sure. What song? A little "Ice Ice Baby"?
Nicole: Okay.
Rich: "Ice, ice, baby, doo-doo-doo-diddle-oo-doo…" That's all I know.
Nicole: That was half-assed.
Dan: Very half-assed. If that's the kind of thing we can expect from you as chair, I just don't think I can vote for you, man.
Robin: "Half-assed"? Those are fightin' words as far as Rich Cole's concerned.
Rich: Where's the bathroom?
Dan: Right over there.

More letters

What is YPY's mandate?

In response to the letter written by Youth Protecting Youth members Robyn Mogan and Nicole Porteous (Feb. 6), I find it interesting that YPY is so concerned with being "clear that [their] club mandate is not to pursue the criminalization of abortion service providers or clients," when they've just finished hosting a presentation made by the executive director of an organization that does. In fact, that is one of the primary goals of the Centre for Bio-ethical Reform and its pet project, GAP (Genocide Awareness Project).

So does YPY's club mandate involve actively supporting other organizations that advocate for the criminalization of abortion providers and their clients? Does their club mandate involve supporting other organizations that exploit the victims of the Holocaust, slavery, and Aboriginal peoples slaughtered by the U.S. Army specifically for the purpose of pursuing the criminalization of abortion?

Does their club mandate involve bringing a GAP speaker to UVic who says women who get abortions should be prosecuted under murder laws? Does their club mandate involve then sending hyperlinks to the official GAP website to people on the YPY listserv?

Perhaps the reason Mogan and Porteous neglected to mention the YPY-sponsored GAP presentation was because it clearly violates their club mandate. Or maybe they're just confused about what the word "pursue" means.

Still another possibility is that they're trying to detract attention from the quote in the Jan. 30 issue of the *Martlet* made by YPY's acting president, Katherine Brach, which indicates the only reason the club is not seeking to bring GAP to UVic at this time is because of lack of a relationship with the UVSS and the student population.

Either way, I've started to look at the metal coat hangers in my closet in a whole new light.

Pamela Manhas

Warnica: The rebuttal (Part 2)

RE: "Why I am in favor of the invasion of Iraq" (Feb. 6).

Mr. Warnica writes that sanctions will not be lifted before Hussein is deposed. The fact is that if diplomats wanted, the sanctions – which include food, medicine and basic household items - could be lifted at any time! It doesn't make sense to block these items since they harm the very people that Mr. Warnica argues a war would help (I personally doubt very much a war would help anyone, not even the Americans.).

Hussein and other high-ranking Iraqi officials are given greater access to the few household goods being brought into Iraq. Therefore it makes sense to drop the sanctions now and help civilian Iraqis live as normal lives as possible, rather than wait until the end of a completely needless war that will give Iraqis a lifetime of suffering and grief without sanctions.

Daniel Sorensen

More letters on page 19!

The Martlet is hiring.
Again.

Every year the *Martlet* Publishing Society hires a new **Editor-in-Chief**, **Managing Editor** and **Production Co-ordinator**. These are full-time positions with salaries of $1,118 bi-weekly. It's time to recruit fresh blood, oops, that's *talent*, for 2003-04.

If you're interested, call Craig or Robin for details at **721-8361**. We'll need a résumé before March 7th at 4 pm, but *won't* accept faxes or e-mail applications.

Sorry.
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WE'RE HIRING

Saving the

library archives

by Jeff Andrew

"Something is always eating at the American heart like acid: it is the knowledge of what we have done to our continent."
-Gary Snyder
Poetry And The Primitive, *1969*

It's late in the afternoon on a warm Sunday in January. I'm on a rope, halfway up a tree, headed for a platform 30 feet above the forest floor. There's a gentle breeze in the air rustling the leaves and whispering in my ear. I feel great. How could I not? I'm climbing a tree. Soon I'm at the top of the rope, dangling in space next to the platform.

Julian Perriere, who spent the previous night up here, grabs my arm and pulls me onto the deck. I unhook myself from the rope and Julian gives me the grand tour of the four-by-eight-foot platform: here's the pulley for bringing up gear; here's a tarp for when it rains; here's a bucket for answering nature's call.

I clip my harness to one of the support lines and try to relax. Looking down, I see people milling about the base of the tree. My girlfriend, Chris Jackson, is getting a climbing lesson from Jess Boquist, one of the activists who helped set up the platform. Chris'll be up here soon; we've agreed to spend the night.

The city of Victoria is located in the Coastal Douglas Fir Biogeoclimatic Zone, one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America. The towering fir trees that once dominated the landscape are nearly gone, destroyed by fires and commercial logging over a century ago. Since then, the relatively dry weather has made it an attractive locale for development, and it's now the most heavily populated area on Vancouver Island.

Within this cityscape lies the University of Victoria's campus. Originally an army camp when the university bought the land in 1959, it features some of the largest forested areas left in the city.

"The campus in many ways represents a last vestige of several major ecosystems that were once much more abundant," says Dr. Nancy Turner, a world-renowned ethnobotanist and environmental studies professor at UVic. "Our campus is a major refuge."

UVic's forests are like a museum showcasing the kind of ecosystems this area used to support. Drivers heading down Gordon Head Road, for example, are probably unaware that the forest running along the western edge of campus was once a spawning ground for salmon.

Further along, near the Gordon Head/Cedar Hill Cross Road intersection, the Garry Oak Meadow provides a rare glimpse of a tree species which once covered this region, but has now dwindled to less than one per cent of its original number. The Garry oak trees growing here exist in only one place in Canada: here, on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, and on a few of the Gulf Islands.

On the way into campus, past the big welcome sign, giant Douglas firs and gnarled arbutus trees in Cunningham Woods stretch up and over Ring Road.

Across the street, a criss-crossing labyrinth of jogging trails winds through South Woods, where a thick forest provides a valuable wildlife corridor for Mystic Vale.

Finally, a wooden staircase leads down into Mystic Vale itself, away from campus and into another world. A well-maintained path follows Hobbes Creek as it works its way through the forest, gently trickling down to the ocean at Cadboro Bay. The air is cool and damp. A peaceful quiet pervades, broken only by the sound of the creek and the occasional woodpecker.

Once I get settled, Julian lowers his backpack down with the pulley and hooks himself to the climbing rope. "Have fun!" he says. Then he steps out into thin air and drops to the ground.

I take a look around. It's a strange and beautiful place to be standing, at the top of a tree. I can see cars on Cedar Hill Cross Road, and I can see birds circling over the roof of the forest. Straight ahead the sun is setting, a golden circle burning behind the treetops. Amazing to think that I'm still on campus – inside Ring Road to boot.

According to Dr. Turner, this area was once teeming with wildlife. Along with the salmon spawning in Bowker Creek, records from past centuries describe huge flocks of cranes flying over Mt. Tolmie, stopping to rest in what are now UVic's forests.

But the salmon are gone now, and the birds are on their way. It's a tale of disappearing wildspace, the same one that's been happening all over the world.

In 2000, the UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP) performed an eight-month study of campus ecosystems and wildlife. Among their findings was the fact that, since 1970, at least 24 species of birds have either declined or disappeared altogether from this campus.

"Such a significant and largely unnoticed species decline is alarming," wrote UVSP member Morgan Hocking, who led the study. "A sign of more to come if policies and awareness are not improved."

Night is falling on the tree-sit. Chris and I are curled up together under a blanket, listening to the sounds of the forest. Everyone else has gone home; now it's just us and the tree.

For an arbutus, it's a giant. The trunk is thick – way too big to wrap your arms around, and the tallest branches reach well above the canopy.

Most of the forests on campus are second-growth, having been logged around the turn of the century. This tree is much older. It's been standing here, watching the world from this spot, for something like five centuries.

I love the quiet strength of these ancient beings. The oldest among them have stood for thousands of years, seeing everything and judging nothing. The wise ones of the world have got nothing on the trees.

In 1999, UVic signed the Talloires Declaration, a 10-point action plan for building sustainability and environmental literacy into higher education. Signed by 291 universities in over 40 countries, it places a heavy emphasis on creating interest and raising awareness of environmental issues within the community.

Many of the signatories have made significant progress in implementing the plan. The Australian National University, for example, has a detailed section on its Web site explaining how ANU is acting on each of the 10 points.

Here at UVic, the university Web site's search engine brings up only two references to the Declaration. The first is a single line at the bottom of a document trumpeting the university's accomplishments in 1999. There is no mention of any actual commitments being made, and no plan for putting it into practice.

"At a campus level, for a policy, there have been no initiatives to document the bio-diversity," says Dr. Turner.

Dr. Turner says there is a huge amount of information available on our campus' ecosystems, the product of decades of field research done by students and independent faculty. Unfortunately, most of it is scattered between departments and buried in old file folders. There has never been a comprehensive attempt to organize it, and as a result, very little is known about campus ecology at the administrative level.

"We have an amazing campus," says Dr. Turner. "There's a lot here that makes it unique, but we're not totally aware of the value of what we have."

Indeed, it seems as though the current administration is either unaware of or uninterested in the tremendous historic, academic and ecological value these areas possess. Despite having made commitments to environmental education by signing the Talloires Declaration, there is surprisingly little official information available about campus ecology. Even basic items – like maps to the campus jogging trails – are difficult or impossible to find.

"It's one thing to sign something," says Graham Watt-Gremm, a strategic planner with the UVic Sustainability Project. "It's another thing to do something about it."

The second reference to the Talloires Declaration is on the UVSP's Web site. A student initiative begun in 1999, the Sustainability Project is working to fill the holes through research projects like an ecological "Green Map" of campus. Their goal is to initiate a campus-wide shift towards a more holistic approach to nature.

According to Watt-Gremm, UVic's forests are facing a number of serious problems. The most immediate threat (apart from the chainsaws) is invasive species: exotic plants like English ivy, which take over ground space and force out native growth.

"It displaces all the moss, ferns and shrubs," says Watt-Gremm. "It puts a lot of strain on the trees, and when it reaches heavy cover, no seedlings can emerge."

In other words, it chokes the forest. The ivy, along with other species like holly and Himalayan blackberry, spread after being planted in neighbourhood gardens and as part of the university's landscaping efforts. Although the practice has stopped on campus, the damage has been done. Ivy has spread to nearly all parts of UVic's

ne forest for the trees

A lofty view of the wild wild campus woods

forests, and experts say it will take years of careful work to remove it.

"How's it going up there?"

It's campus security. They've been coming by every hour or so, not bothering us, just making sure we're okay.

"Not bad," I yell back. "Starting to get cold."

"Well, have a good night. Don't fall out."

Chris and I laugh. I can't believe I'm up here. It's such a strange place to be, so far outside the realm of normal experience, and yet I feel right at home.

As a kid growing up in Ontario, I remember seeing pictures of giant Doug firs and Sitka spruce splitting the sky hundreds of feet above the earth. The West Coast forests seemed like magic. I wanted to believe they were real.

photo by Jeff Andrew

I used to have dreams about places like Mystic Vale.

The Mystic Vale Protection Area was the result of a joint purchase made by UVic, the Municipality of Saanich and the provincial government in 1993. Initially slated for development, it now stands as one of only two legally protected areas on campus (the other is in the Haro Woods on the north edge of campus).

It's a magnificent place. Majestic stands of Douglas fir trees tower over a steep ravine, the ground coated with moss, fallen leaves and luscious green ferns. Great-horned owls, bald eagles, ravens and black-tailed deer all call it home.

For the past six years, Facilities Management has been working to take some of the pressure off the forest. Removal of invasive species, re-structuring of the creek bed to prevent flooding and re-location of the trail are among the university-funded restoration projects under way in Mystic Vale.

It's the kind of thing that should be happening all over campus. Instead the university's forests are largely neglected, exposed to encroaching development and domination by invasive species. UVic has no policy on natural areas, and there is a widespread perception that ecological concerns aren't a factor in the administration's planning decisions.

"Their main priorities are academic," says Heather Johnstone, a researcher with the POLIS Project. "Sustainability is not given a priority."

The POLIS Project on Ecological Governance is an independent organization working to promote alternative methods of development on campus. "Smart Growth" means densification and infilling, making better use of under-used areas like the large courtyard in the Clearihue building, and building on already impacted spaces like parking lots.

Groups like POLIS and the UVSP aren't the only ones calling for a change of direction. When Dr. David Suzuki spoke here last month, he stressed the need for universities to start "trying to live up to the principles of sustainability."

"We need to have strong protection," says Justine Starke, the POLIS Project's Campus Sustainability Coordinator. "We need to set up goals. As Dr. Suzuki said, this is the way we're going to live, and the university has to be the model."

Monday afternoon. Chris is up in the tree; I'm on the ground helping Jess Boquist and Justine Starke set up a rain shelter. A pair of well-dressed young men are walking down the path, wearing shiny leather shoes and drinking coffee out of disposable paper cups. They seem out of place in the forest.

"So what are you doing here?" one of them asks. "This forest is in the middle of the city; it's too small have any real ecological value. Seems to me you just want to protect it for aesthetic reasons, when the fact is we need this space to develop."

I start to speak, but Justine beats me to it.

"Actually, this forest has tremendous ecological value. There's arbutus trees, 100-year old Douglas firs, it's a wildlife corridor for Mystic Vale..." She goes on, outlining the various features.

I shake my head; it is exactly what they want her to say. They're boxing her in, trying to keep the discussion on their terms. Making it impossible to see the bigger issues, like how what happens on campus can set the example for the rest of the province, and the world too.

They're right, in a way. These forests aren't large-scale ecosystems like the Carmanah Valley or the Great Bear Rainforest. They're miniatures, living samples of what the planet used to be like.

And that's where their value lies. We can learn from them, and learn how to live with them. If we can protect the forests here, maybe there's hope for the rest of the planet.

We don't need this space to develop. The university estimates it will need 800,000 square feet of new buildings in the next 15 years. The current draft of the Campus Development Plan covers twice that amount. There's plenty of room to build without cutting down trees.

The recent announcement of a possible moratorium is a recognition of this. A sign that at least someone on the Campus Development Committee (CDC) is listening. And while it has yet to follow through on its promises of environmental protection, the CDC has made commitments to building with recycled materials and reducing the number of vehicles on campus.

Currently, one of the biggest obstacles to Smart Growth is the number of cars being driven here. In 2000, the Bundt Traffic Survey found that single-occupant vehicles accounted for over 76 per cent of all vehicular traffic on campus.

"There has to be a modal shift in the way people get to and from campus," says Heather Johnstone.

Car-pooling may be the answer. There are currently 4600 parking spots at UVic. Even if every car that drove here only carried two people, it would free up nearly 40 per cent of that space for other uses.

Later on, activist Ingmar Lee stops by. I tell him about the argument.

"Well," he says, "if someone can't even appreciate the aesthetic value of a forest, they've got a serious problem."

Still, I was impressed that they came out here to talk face-to-face instead of criticizing us behind our backs. There's been a lot of this kind of dialogue lately. I hope it can continue. It's the first step towards a solution.

"There's a wave coming in," says Graham Watt-Gremm. "It hasn't crested yet, but we can see it coming. We know what we have to do to get there."

In March, students will vote on whether or not to give 50 cents per semester to fund the UVSP. In the meantime, Watt-Gremm is pushing to have a Directed Studies position created to manage the ecological research that's been done at UVic for the past four decades. He envisions a "clearing house" of information, a permanent office to organize what's known about UVic's natural areas and present the information to groups like the CDC.

As part of the UVSP's 2000 study of campus ecology, Morgan Hocking did a survey to gauge the student body's appreciation of the natural spaces on campus. He found that while only 25 per cent were aware of the significance of the Garry Oak Meadow, 75 per cent favoured further integration of natural areas into class studies. Eight-five-and-a-half per cent believed environmental impact assessments were necessary when planning development, and 96.9 per cent said they valued the natural areas as they presently exist.

This signals two things: a) that there is a high level of support for maintaining the natural spaces as they are, and b) that there is a serious knowledge gap in terms of actually understanding what these areas represent.

"I'd like to see our university be the leader across Canada in protecting native species and natural ecosystems," says Dr. Turner. "We should be role models and examples for everyone to follow."

From an activist's perspective, tree-sitting is a good start. It's peaceful, it catches the public's attention and it demonstrates serious personal commitment. The next step is to reach out to the community: go beyond simple slogans and start educating people. Continue successful events like the Ecological Footprint Day, and follow up by bringing students and faculty out into the field. Show them why the forests are important.

The university, for its part, needs to live up to the Talloires Declaration and follow through on its commitments. Develop a "Natural Areas" policy, and give firm protection to the forests. Put together a trail map and distribute it in first-year orientation packages. Give more funding to restoration projects. Make sustainability a priority.

Finally, it's up to us to make these changes happen. We need to smarten up: fill the knowledge gap, and teach others to do the same. If we set the example by changing our attitudes and lifestyles, we can force our leaders to do the same.

The sun is setting once again. I'm sitting on the platform by myself, enjoying my last moments up here before someone comes to relieve me. I don't want to come down, really, don't want to go back to my life on the ground.

It's so much harder to feel angry or stressed out when you're sitting in a tree.

I'm looking around at the platform now. It's covered with drawings, people's names, little bits of poetry: "Platforms Are Fun." "Arbutus Are Beautiful." "Hamadryads Be Happy!"

And my own contribution: "You Can See The Whole World From The Top Of A Tree"

Alright, I think I'm ready to come down.

photo by Jeff Andrew

Cut a rug and shake a tail feather with Fever

by Sarah Petrescu

photo by Barbara Pedrick

Fever calls this one the "Come and get it" look. The brothers and sister are bent to make you boogie.

How do five classically trained musicians invoke a packed audience to get up off their booties and shake it on the dance floor?

They dress up in a plethora of '70s poly and sequins and play non-stop disco grooves.

"We do the best and worst of disco," says guitarist Leon Nagasaki.

They play the crowd pleasers: a little "Disco Inferno," "D'ya Think I'm Sexy" and "We Are Family."

"You can't stop the body rock," says keyboardist Lucas Marchand. "The idea is to have people dancing the whole time."

Two things separate this cover band from the rest: no breaks between tunes and degrees.

Each member of Fever has either completed, or is in the process of completing, a degree in music from various institutions.

"We are all 'art' musicians, in a way," says Nagasaki, "Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between our rehearsals and jazz theory class."

Fever use their experience as trained musicians to create a tight and pervasive show with the sole goal of moving people's bodies.

"We don't want to be a jam band," says Nagasaki. "We leave room for solos and expansion, but there is definitely structure. We want to make sure it is seamless."

Nagasaki and Marchand look at Fever as an opportunity to mend the present gap between live and dance music.

"People explore live music as a spectator sport. They stand and watch and clap between songs," says Marchand. "We want to change that. The audience doesn't have to pay attention. They can just dance."

Nagasaki and Meyers don't see Fever as competing with other live bands in town, but rather with djs. They say that the dj vibe of continual music is what they are aiming for. They want people to come see their show because they want to dance and know their itching feet will be satiated.

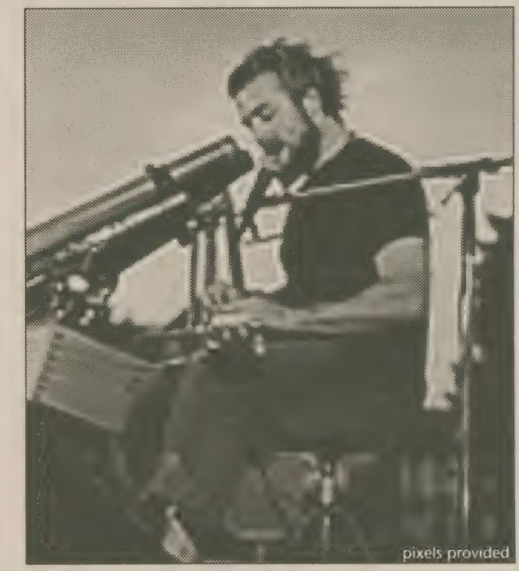
"We want to uplift every audience we play for," says Nagasaki.

Fever plays every Sunday night at Lucky Bar. Tix are $5 or $3 in costume. Door prizes by Retro Wear.

All proceeds from the March 2 show will go to the Victoria Persons With Aids Society.

The Beautiful Tender Sensitive Talented Mr. Rudd

by Briony Smith



pixels provided

Xavier Rudd is a beautiful, beautiful man. I'm not talking about the way he looks. He is indeed easy on the eyes, but his extreme talent and the unique feel of his music and performance gives you the feeling that you are in the presence of someone truly sublime.

His album *To Let* is an amazing accomplishment. Rudd, a 24-year-old from Torquay, Australia, plays almost all the instruments on this album, including lap steel guitar, Aztec drum, six- and 12-string acoustic guitars, stomp box, and didgeridoo. He also writes and sings his own songs.

To Let is amazing because it has so much passion and such an original sound. The sound is folksy (or, in Rudd's words, "rootsy and organic"), but it has an intensity that is magnified by Rudd's strong, almost plaintive, voice. When he's not singing, he's usually blowing away on one of his three didgeridoos, which brings an immediacy and vibrancy to the music, especially on the stand-out tracks "Conceal Me" and "To Let."

The quieter songs, such as "One Short Story" and "Light the Shade," are remarkable for their tenderness and beauty. "Little Chief," written about Rudd's son, is one of the most gorgeous songs that I have heard in a very long time.

I had the chance to speak with Rudd before his recent show at Lucky Bar. His stop in Victoria was in the middle of a rigorous North American tour.

When asked what he gets out of touring, Rudd said, "I just love playing my music, seeing people coming out to support me and affecting people on the way." He said that he loves Canadians. "They're very humble and earthy here which is something I can respect."

Rudd plays all his instruments live, performing feats like playing the didgeridoo, the stomp-box, the shakers, and the guitar all at the same time ("the lap steel guitar [is the hardest to play simultaneously] because at times it's something you have to look carefully at.") He said that he enjoys the challenge of being solo because "you're always in control of what comes out."

This man is absolutely flabbergasting live. He plays up to four instruments at a time, including long stretches of guitar and didgeridoo together. Rudd's performance was also electric in its degree of intensity. He flailed around, threw his head back and, during one song, drooled on himself four times. It was a beautiful sight. His passion was inspiring.

People at the concert merrily sung along to the choruses of his songs, which is pretty amazing considering that his albums are not sold in stores (yet).

Rudd performed four encores. The crowd loved it, picking up the songs' choruses and singing along, dancing wildly.

Watching Rudd's sheer brilliance in play as he made flawless raw music up on that stage was one of the most wonderful things I have ever seen. His music is so truly awesome that it transforms Rudd into a vessel of artistic expression that is powerful and rare. A beautiful, beautiful man.

Learn more about this talented chap at www.xavierrudd.com

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"Play Fuckin' Loud!": one man's treatise

by Jeff Andrew

"Princess on the steeple and all the pretty people drinkin' and thinkin' that they got it made
But you better lift your diamond ring, you better pawn it babe
When you got nothing, you got nothing to lose
You got no secrets left to conceal
How does it feel?"

-Bob Dylan, "Like a Rolling Stone"

In 1965, Bob Dylan was everywhere. The wandering troubadour from Minnesota had evolved from a young, scruffy Woody Guthrie-inspired folk musician into a bona-fide rock star. The release of his new folk/rock album *Bringing It All Back Home,* which gave the world "Mr. Tambourine Man," had brought Dylan to an unprecedented level of international fame. Cover versions of his songs dominated the pop charts, and his sold-out tours attracted such luminaries as Allen Ginsberg and Andy Warhol. Dylan was cool.

Not everyone was happy about it. The insular community of folk musicians and their fans, which had given Dylan his first success in the coffeehouses of New York's Greenwich Village, felt betrayed. Folk music, typified by solo acoustic performers like Joan Baez and Pete Seeger, was seen as an artistically pure alternative to commercial rock'n'roll, which had grown stale after a strong run in the late 1950s. Genuinely dangerous (at least to middle-class suburbia) musicians like Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Elvis Presley were gone, replaced by seemingly tame pop groups like the Beatles and the Beach Boys.

Dylan had been folk's prince, a daring, eloquent poet who challenged the authorities with protest songs and modern anthems like "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna' Fall" and "The Times They Are A-Changin'." Now he was a sell-out. What had gone wrong?

The answer lies in the music. Dylan had re-discovered the vitality and raw power of rock'n'roll, expanding the sparse, pencil-sketch feel of his folk songs into a multi-coloured explosion of sound. His always-evocative lyrics now had a musical counterpoint: the thumping backbeat and screaming guitars of a live rock band. It was new music, stuff no one had ever played before, and for every disgruntled folkie there were 10 suburban kids who heard not a sell-out, but an electric warrior sounding the battle cry.

"I knew that I was listening to the toughest voice I had ever heard," said Bruce Springsteen of the first time he heard "Like a Rolling Stone," Dylan's classic description of life on the street (released in August of 1965). "It was lean and simultaneously young and adult. It reached down and touched whatever worldliness a 15-year-old kid in New Jersey had in him. Dylan was a revolutionary."

The tour Dylan launched in the spring of 1966 was about a clash of worlds. The atmosphere in the stuffy theatres and outdoor folk festivals was thick with anger and confrontation, as audiences jeered the new material (in many cases older tunes redone as rock songs) and threatened to storm the stage.

"What a strange concept of entertainment," said Robbie Robertson, who played lead guitar in Dylan's back-up band. "We'd go to one town, they'd boo us, we'd pack up and go on to the next place, and they'd boo us again. You can get a little sadistic in these situations, turn the volume up that much louder!"

Dylan's *Live 1966: The "Royal Albert Hall" Concert* (an infamous bootleg of a show in May 1966, now re-mastered and available from Columbia Records) is both one of the strangest and most powerful live albums ever recorded. The first half features Dylan the folk musician, playing solo. The audience listens with an awed, respectful silence as Dylan delivers spellbinding versions of new songs like "Visions of Johanna" and "Desolation Row," accompanying himself on acoustic guitar and reinforcing his lyrics with whispery bursts of harmonica. He finishes the set with "Mr. Tambourine Man," to rapturous applause.

Then his band starts to tune up. For support Dylan has chosen the Hawks, a rough, tough rhythm and blues outfit from Toronto, part of the same fertile Canadian music scene which spawned Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and Steppenwolf. The Hawks (who, as the Band, would help create "country-rock" in the late 60s with hits like "The Weight" and "Up On Cripple Creek"), had been the backing group for rockabilly singer Ronnie Hawkins. Having learned their trade in Toronto nightclubs and in the gritty, violent juke joints of Hawkins' native Arkansas, they were the perfect choice for what Dylan called "that thin, wild, mercury sound" – a quicksilver rush of guitar, bass, drums, organ, piano and harmonica.

With no introduction and no time for the audience to prepare, the Hawks charge into the first song. "Tell Me, Momma," an out-take from Dylan's then just-released album *Blonde On Blonde,* is a rolling, rumbling stomp of a song, a wild ride through a jungle of rock'n'roll chords, bluesy guitar and haunting organ. Clearly, a new beast has taken the stage. "Tell me mommaaaaaaa!" Dylan leans into the chorus with an urgency, a visceral cry rarely heard outside of hardcore punk.

And punk it is. Because before the Clash, before the Sex Pistols, before the Stooges, there was Dylan singing about desperation, disillusionment and homelessness in "Like a Rolling Stone." The sound is less distorted and more technically polished, but the energy and the loose, un-controlled fury is there. In spades.

The audience is pissed off. The pristine quiet of the first set has been shattered by this noisy, untamed rock'n'roll. Instead of cheering, the first song ends to a chorus of boos.

The band plays on, tearing through their set, Robbie Robertson's whiplash lead guitar and Dylan's raspy whine snaking together on pounding rock songs and greasy Chicago blues. It sounds as if they're trying to beat the audience into submission with their guitars.

There are pauses between songs, where Dylan mumbles incoherently and tries to taunt the crowd, saying things like "This is an old song; it used to go like that, now it goes like this." The audience retaliates with more boos and catcalls, at one point breaking into loud, rhythmic clapping meant to throw Dylan off the beat.

Finally, near the end of the set, a random voice cries out. "Judas!" Dylan snarls back at him. "I don't believe you. You're a liar!" Then, marking a pivotal moment in rock history, he turns to his band and yells, "Play fuckin' loud!" as they crash into the opening chords of "Like a Rolling Stone."

Yeah, man. Give it to them. This is the sound of revolution.

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Astralwerks

by Malcom Katz

The first time I heard of the Chemical Brothers was in 1996 when Noel Gallagher, then at the height of Oasis fame, released a single with them. It was of course a smash hit, but, at the time, I could not help agreeing with his baby brother Liam's assessment of the band in a MuchMusic interview. To paraphrase: nice guys, but I don't like their music (not that I, personally, know if they are nice or not, but I took Liam's word for it).

Their latest effort, *AmericanEP*, has not done much to change my opinion. Repetitive and not particularly original drum beats, with the odd sound effect thrown in for good measure, do not make for extremely entertaining music (although they do do wonders for a headache). That being said, as electronica goes, I am sure this is not a terrible album. But to look at it in a different way, it is no *Gould Variations*. It is not a masterpiece that will have a profound impact on that genre in particular, and certainly not music in general. To paraphrase Fred Durst (talking about Limp Bizkit's music) which happens to work when one talks of the Chemical Brothers: nobody will listen to this in 10 years. In fact, I would hazard a guess nobody will listen to it much sooner than that.

About the strongest endorsement I can make for this album is this: if you go to a rave and get really high on ecstasy, I am sure it would not sound too bad. Perhaps that is a little unfair. If you like electronica, or as Austin Powers would say, "if that's your bag, baby," I suppose there is no real reason why you would not like this album.

Hoochy Girls are hot and spicy just like mother used to make

by Ryan Herriot

There's nothing quite like an evening with the Hoochy Girls. Don't get too excited – this local nine-piece ska band is composed entirely of guys. I recently caught up with the group at one of their regular practices and was treated to a unique infusion of reggae beats, intense horn lines, and good ol' fashioned rock 'n' roll.

"I don't think anyone inspires us except us. Our style is one of a kind," proclaims Adam Proudfoot, Hoochy lead vocalist and extravagant frontman. While this claim may be a tad bold, the band did demonstrate a wide range of material, from the Latin-influenced "Mexican Ska," to a hilarious cover of "Now You're a Man" by DVDA, as well as their own more conventional third wave ska tunes like "Storytime" and "I Re-gripped my Baby."

What really defines this band, however, is the sheer energy and over-the-top stage performances they routinely deliver at gigs around Victoria and the island. The amount of preparation and costuming that goes into the onstage antics of a typical Hoochy Girls show would put most Broadway musicals to shame. And it has paid off with a loyal following: not every band can get a hall full of screaming teenage girls to go down on their knees on command. (I personally witnessed this at a show a couple of months ago.)

Perhaps the group's massive stage presence is the result of an absolutely ginormous line-up, composed almost entirely of UVic students. In addition to Proudfoot, Cam Wallace does some of the vocals and also plays guitar. The essential horn section consists of Mike Ward, Brett Classen, and Andy Bishop on sax, Carson Barnes on trombone, and Gare Hurn on trumpet. A pounding rhythm section rounds out the group, with Chris Peterson (Crispy) on drums and Mark Wallace on bass.

The Hoochy Girls have been performing for almost two years now, wooing audiences at all-ages venues like the Pandora Project and bars like Soundgarden and the Nanaimo Cambie. "We play the all-ages gigs because that's where our fan base is," says Proudfoot. "Bars like to give you the bend over and crooked grind."

After a brief respite, these maidens of ska will be kicking off a new round of performances with an upcoming show at the Gary Oak Room in the Fairfield Community Centre. Long-term plans include opening for the Planet Smashers when they come to Victoria in early May, and rumour has it that the Hoochy Girls will be playing at Ska Fest this summer.

More importantly, the band is in the process of recording its first CD – a full-length album entitled *Greatest Hits*. The ironic title provides an interesting reflection of an ex-high school band just now flirting with the possibility of success. "None of us are counting on making it, but I think we could. We should've picked pop punk," jokes Proudfoot. There's still time for a change. Look for posters promoting a band called "Hoochy 78" in the near future.

The Hoochy Girls will be playing at the Fairfield Community Centre on Feb. 28 and also at the UVic German Club party on March 7.

photo by Ryan Herriot

The Hoochy Girls - named after an epiphanic experience involving a spacecraft, beer and Sugar nightclub.

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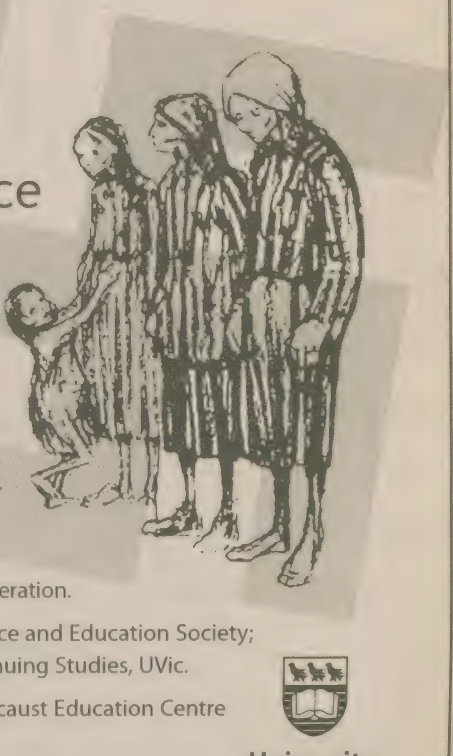

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University of Victoria
Division of Continuing Studies

Alchemic art: *LUNA* marries dance and science

by Briony Smith

photo by L.S. Zeigler

As part of the 2002-2003 season of the Victoria Dance Series, the O Vertigo company is bringing their production of *LUNA* to the Royal Theatre on March 4.

O Vertigo was founded in 1984 and has performed in more than 100 cities worldwide. Ginette Laurin is the company's founder and acts as choreographer and artistic director for the company. She has been touring with *LUNA* for two years, since its premiere performance in Switzerland in 2001, travelling around Canada, the United States, and Europe. Laurin asserts that *LUNA* tries to say things without words.

"I find verbal language very complex," she says. "The way we use words can be very different from the expression of the body. The body is a wonderful machine that [finds it] easy to communicate with the instruments."

LUNA relies heavily on images. The piece has been praised for its luminous and original concepts in the way it showcases dancers onstage. Props, such as giant magnifying glasses, are used to magnify the movement of the dancers.

In creating *LUNA*, Laurin was inspired by the work of photographer Karl Blossfeldt who took close-up pictures of flowers at the beginning of the 20th century, then enlarged the pictures so much that the viewer was often unable to discern that it was a flower at all.

"People weren't able to recognize the flowers. They looked like something that had been created by a human," says Laurin.

She says that this is the same sort of concept that she wished to express with her dancers' bodies. "With the use of magnifying glasses, I can show details that we usually don't see. These details are possible [when using the magnifying glasses]."

The theme of the seen and the unseen is a prevalent one in *LUNA*. Part of the production has a dancer in a gigantic dress, with her upper body visible, free to dance and move, and the bottom half of her body concealed under the huge hoop skirt of the dress. Cameras are hidden under the costumes and project the images of the lower body moving and dancing onto a screen onstage.

Laurin says that people often ask her if the footage of the legs dancing projected onto the screen is actually pre-recorded.

"It's hard to believe that these two different images are coming from the same body," she says.

Critics have noted the lack of overt narrative in the show, but Laurin stresses that searching for meaning in *LUNA* is not the point of the piece. "We don't want people to understand. There are no codes [to understanding]. I want people to listen to the music and to feel something. Everyone has their own story [to bring to *LUNA*]," she says.

Laurin likens *LUNA* to a "film without words." She is not trying to tell a story with *LUNA*, but rather to present a series of very strong poetic images.

Stephen White, executive producer of the Victoria Dance Series, saw LUNA last June at the Canadian Dance Festival in Ottawa. He believes that *LUNA*'s appeal lies in its accessibility. "The audience has a way in with the images. I was pulled into it and hypnotized by the lunar landscape. You're transported to another place entirely," he says. White is excited to have O Vertigo's *LUNA* as part of the Victoria Dance Series because "it's pushing the envelope," he says.

LUNA "pushes the envelope" in many ways, but does so notably in its use of a unique element not often incorporated into modern dance: science. Laurin is enthusiastic about her collaboration with McGill astrophysicist Claude Théoret. He contributed ideas about the relationships between big and small things in the universe – a theme that figured in the creative process for Laurin while she shaped *LUNA*'s final incarnation. She says that Théoret's contribution to *LUNA* has added to its originality, as the public is "fascinated with the aspect of mixing science and art." This scientific aspect of the production is augmented by optical technology and the "videography" used in *LUNA*.

Although one might suspect that modern dance purists could react negatively to the marriage of science and art in this production, Laurin says that most people respond viscerally to the show.

"They find it magical," she says.

O Vertigo's LUNA *shows nightly at Victoria's Royal Theatre, March 4 through 8. Call McPherson Playhouse Box Office at 386-6121 for ticket information.*

The impact of *Wozzeck*

by Katrina Sark

photo by Vanessa Neuman

Pacific Opera had a very special treat for Victoria's audiences with their second production this year, the psychodramatic opera *Wozzeck*.

Based on a true story about a soldier in the 1820s who was executed for killing his wife, the theme was first picked up by the German playwright Georg Buechner, and later by the composer Alban Berg. The opera premiered in 1925.

"There is nothing sentimental about this opera," says Pacific Opera's artistic director Timothy Vernon, "but it gives a sense of catharsis. The audience is left with a confrontation when the curtain goes down."

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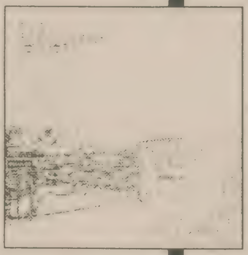
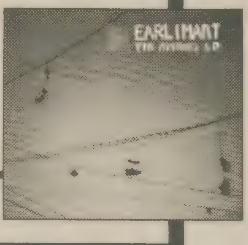
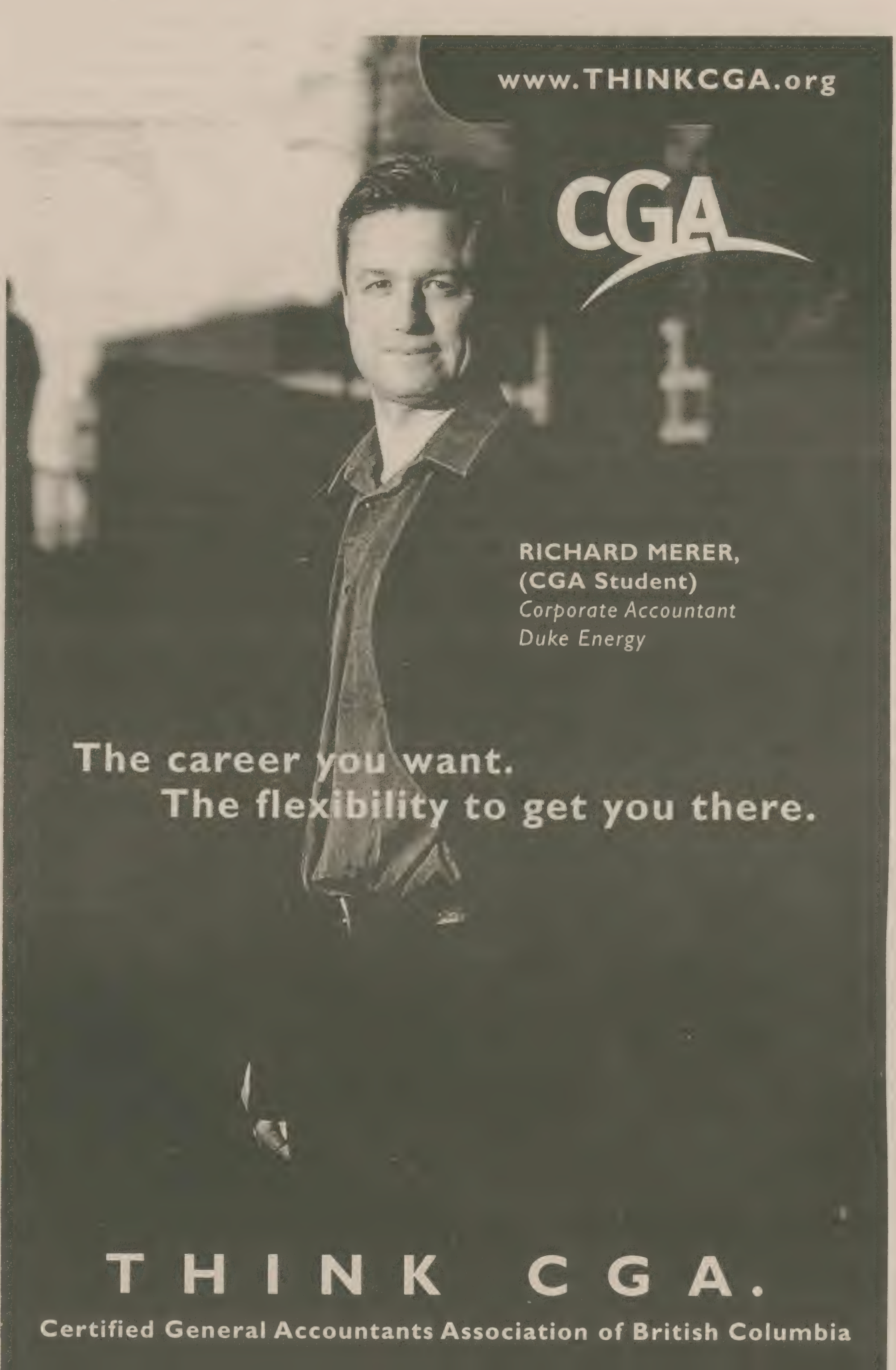






Vikes survive hiccups

Team breathes easy after earning berth in National Championship

by Mark Samcoe

The Vikes women's basketball team can breathe a sigh of relief, for a week. In the last two weeks, UVic has had to rebound from tough losses to extend their season and playoff run. In a week's time, the polluted Hamilton air won't be the only contentious factor the women will be dealing with at the CIS National Championship.

Imagine the Vikes as a lung, and a backwards glance illustrates how some alveoli almost burst.

The Vikes hosted the University of Regina Cougars in Canada West quarterfinal action at McKinnon Gym Feb. 14-16. UVic appeared on the verge of sweeping the Cougars following a solid 53-46 victory Friday night, but the Cougars responded Saturday night with a 63-36 mauling, holding the Vikes to a measly 16 points in the second half, which forced a decisive match on Sunday.

"We came in without the fire necessary to close out a series," said head coach Brian Cheng. On the Lord's day of rest, UVic shook off their Saturday slumber as the outside shooting found its mark in a 63-58 hiding of the suddenly toothless Cougars.

"We have some patterns," said Cheng. "First is that we get a little overconfident and we rest. [But] when the chips are down, pressure's on, we answer the call."

With the series win, the Vikes earned a spot in the Canada West Final Four last weekend at Simon Fraser University. The Vikes were again forced to bounce back from a loss to keep their season and playoff drive alive.

"We struggled," said Cheng of last weekend's performance.

The women lost their first game to the University of Winnipeg Wesmen Friday night. The 76-62 defeat relegated the Vikes to the bronze medal game Saturday against the University of Calgary Dinos – a team they'd swept in their last regular season series – where they eked out a narrow 56-55 victory, nabbing the final Canada West conference birth in the CIS National Championship in Hamilton.

"Our D helped us win the game," said Cheng of Saturday's squeaker. "I think we've got to give us, the team, credit, for basically finding a way."

The Vikes now have the luxury of a week's rest before departing next Wednesday for McMaster University – "Get the kids acclimatized physically and mentally for the next five or six days" – joining the CanWest champion SFU Clan, the Wesmen and five other schools in the single elimination tournament March 6-9.

"The whole zoo begins then. It's a whole different animal," said Cheng, referring to the increased media exposure, the awards banquet, the interviews, and of course, the real reason they are in a city famous for a tire fire: to play and win.

"Like anything, it's a bit of adversity."

Only Krystal O'Byrne, Lindsay Anderson, Dani Everett and Jennifer Diana have previous Nationals experience. But Cheng, who's coached as an assistant in four tournaments, including the Vikes' 2000 championship win, will rely on that experience and expects his young players "to play like savvy veterans."

The Vikes won't know their seeding in the tournament, which will determine who they meet in their first game, until the Quebec, Ontario and Atlantic conferences crown their own champions at tournaments this weekend.

Cheng can only hazard a guess, but anticipates his team will be slotted either 5th or 6th. Tournament seedings are decided based on Relative Power Indicator (RPI). Twenty-five per cent of the RPI value is a team's winning percentage, 50 per cent of their opponents' win percentage, and 25 per cent of their opponent's opponents win percentage. The present RPI standings have UVic listed as 3rd best in the nation.

"I think our best ball is yet to come," said Cheng. "The sky's the limit for us. We have a very good opportunity to win the whole thing."

UVic will look to its tenacious defense – led by top-scorer and Canada West defensive player of the year Anderson, looking to cap her university career with another CIS championship – to stifle the competition. If their offence is successful from the perimeter – a key to their dominance all season – the Vikes have an excellent chance to go deep.

"What got us here is a tough, tough work ethic – second to none," said Cheng. "No one's going to outwork us.

"I don't really care where we finish. I really care how we do in our last game. I want it to be our best game."

Top 10 stupid university team names

compiled by Ruth Knoop and Mark Samcoe

10. McGill Martlets –
R: Give it up! We know everyone wants to be like us. Get your own name.
M: How the hell does the mascot get around? It's a footless bird, right? Does it ride a skateboard like that subway guy in *Kids*?

9. Ottawa Gee-Gees –
R: What the fuck is a Gee-Gee? Maybe they meant Bee Gees, but Maurice and the rest of the gang beat them to it, so they had to settle for Gee?
M: Isn't this the British term for horse races? I remember when I was a kid, being at a friend's house and watching *Top Gun* with him and his mom and her boyfriend. He was English and had a really hairy chest. He talked about going to the gee-gees and smoking fags.

8. York Yeomen and Yeowomen –
R: Yeo! This name sucks, mostly because there's such an obvious lame attempt to differentiate between the men's and women's teams. Why not just call yourself the York Yeo, or the Yeo-Yeos.
M: These teams make me want to speak in ebonics. Like, "Yo, man. Yo, woman. Shizzle my nizzle."

7. Toronto Varsity Blues –
R: Let me guess, James van der Beek and Paul Walker entertain the crowd during half-time to Green Day's "Nice Guys Finish Last."
M: I can't not think about the whipped cream bikini scene. Mmmm.

6. Simon Fraser Clan –
R: Since when did Canada start endorsing the KKK?
M: They should switch the "n" to "m," and become the Clam.

5. St. Francis Xavier X-Men –
R: And their mascots are Wolverine, Storm and Professor Charles Xavier.
M: Isn't that copyright infringement? Why can't they just pick one mutant? Like Beast. The St. FX Beast. I like that.

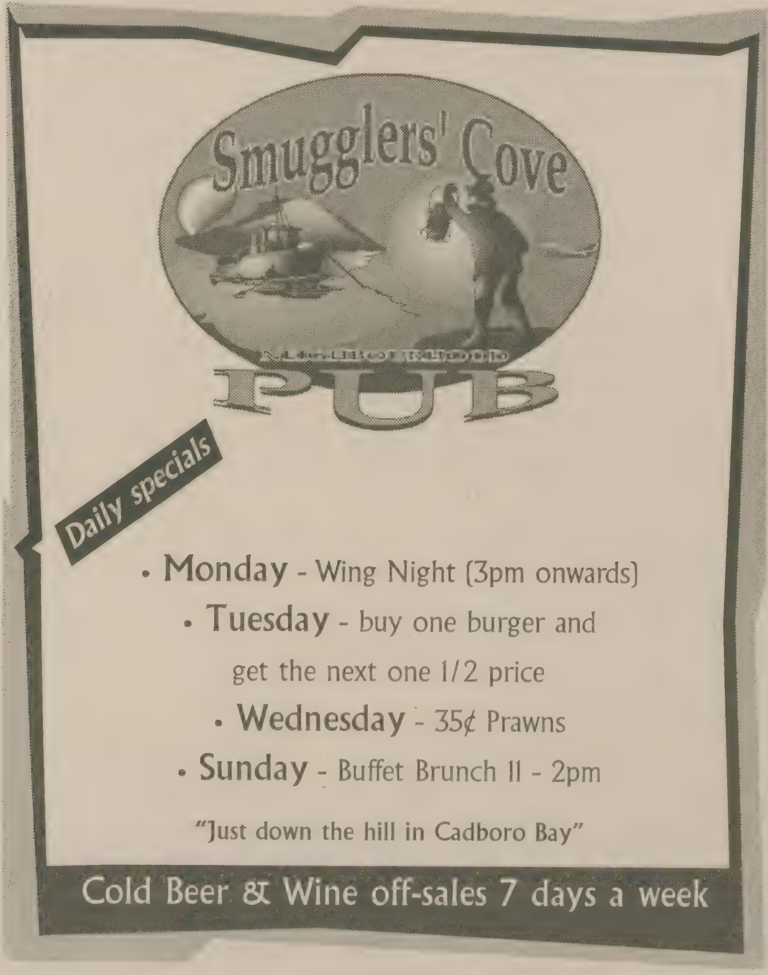
4. Lethbridge Pronghorns –
R: Oooohhhhh! Scary!
M: Tell me about it. Lethbridge is basically a dustbowl. I think that university has the highest suicide rate in the nation. It's this big concrete thing built into the side of a hill and it's sliding a little bit every year. And there are no windows.

3. Winnipeg Wesmen –
R: No comment.
M:The women are also Wesmen. This is a very dated way of thinking. But, hey, it's Winnipeg. The Jets once traded Dale Hawerchuk and that's just unforgivable.

2. St. Thomas Tommies –
R: All that comes to mind is Chris Farley in *Tommy Boy*.
M: I don't know what their mascot or logo is so my intial thoughts are split between a Tommy gun and that musical by the Who. I wonder if they play a mean pinball.

1. L'universite de Sherbrooke Vert et Or –
R: Green and Gold?! Maybe UVic should change their name to the Blue and Yellow.
M: I think their mascot is a fox. If you mix green and gold together, what does that make? Orange. So, what, are they closet Protestants?

0. Concordia Stingers –
R: The bees! The bees that kill Macaulay Culkin in *My Girl*.
M: Fucking bees.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Wet n' wild CIS Nationals! BYOR (break your own record)!

Partial nudity recommended! Body hair optional

by Rich Cole

Students from around the country packed their bathing suits, shaved their bodies and traveled to Commonwealth Place for the 2003 CIS Championships last weekend.

Hosted by UVic and their affiliate Pacific Coast Swimming (PCS), the competition offered Speedo-heads the weekend of a lifetime. The event's highlights included the shattering of 13 CIS records, not to mention one Canadian and one world record. UBC's Brian Johns more than reimbursed swim fans' three-buck entry fee by shattering the world record in 400m individual medley. In a sport in which winners are decided by the difference of tenths and even hundredths of seconds, the Richmond native became the fastest all-around swimmer on the planet by an unprecedented two seconds.

The Vikes' own Jesse Jacks also made waves, notching up three of UVic's five medals. Jacks had had a difficult season, battling the flu bug, however according to Vikes head coach Peter Vizsolyi, it made Jacks learn new race strategies. By tapping in to what Vizsolyi calls "intelligent fear," Jacks used any doubts on the swim blocks to his advantage. Son of a three-time Olympian and PCS coach, Jacks, a sociology student, spent the CIS weekend majoring in lapping his competition.

Another Vike with a great performance was soon-to-be-retired Phil Weiss, who earned a bronze medal in the 200m individual medley – the same race in which UBC's Brian Johns set a new Canadian Record.

"Going up against a world record holder was great," said Weiss of his last race as a Vike. "I've raced with Johns since we were kids. It was a good feeling to be on the podium beside him."

Also retiring this year is fourth-year backstroke veteran Dave MacDonald.

"I thought it was really great the way the Vikes pulled together for such a small team," said MacDonald. UBC may have won the overall points total, but MacDonald proudly pimped UVic's fourth-place performance, stating that "per swimmer, the Vikes out-did all the other universities at CI's."

photo courtesy of Gordon Lee Photography

So what if you pogo-balled up Mt. Doug, successfully lobbied the cancellation of *Frasier* and finished your term paper last Friday night. Brian Johns, UBC's bald beauty, set a world record in the 400m IM, in a time of 4:02.72, which, if you're a big fan of non-sequiters and ribaldry and unfounded statistics, is something like the average time it takes to shave one's melon with a two-bladed razor.

Swimmers sacrifice "important time" for six-packs

by Rich Cole

The Vikes' successful showing at Commonwealth Pool last weekend illustrates the depth of the varsity program, as UVic continues to dominate the CI's year after year.

Peter Vizsolyi, now in his 20th year with the Vikes, has coached hundreds of swimmers from waterwing-wearing beginners to CIS contenders. With fifth-year veteran Kellie Rolston also retiring this year, Vizsolyi reflected on the true significance of an event such as the Interuniversity Championships. He recalled this year's great performances and said that, while he's really impressed with each medal, he feels that a coach's job is more than just breeding a fast competitor.

"Swim meets are really more to do with learning about yourself, how you can grow and change," he said. "These kids are giving up an important time in their lives to swim with the Vikes. Sometimes helping the swimmers grow as people can be even more important than their racing stats."

Vizsolyi's coaching philosophy seems to be the key to the Vikes' continued success. The Vikes continue to win in and out of the pool. Up-and-comers like Danielle Bell and Laina Steeple picked UVic specifically because of Vizsolyi.

Swimming is a grueling test of an individual's true potential. Unlike most sports, there's not much to blame a loss on. No mechanical failures, no souped-up equipment, just the athlete and the water. The Vikes swimmers trade six-packs of beer for abdominal six-packs in their pursuit of an athletic Zen.

For Phil Weiss, his UVic swimming career "has been an amazing personal adventure."

When I joked around and asked the retiring swimmers if they were going to buy walkers and spend the winters in Florida, Dave MacDonald laughed and said, "Yeah, me and Weiss are going to gain a hundred pounds... each." While it made for a great joke, the truth is that the retiring Vikes will spend the rest of their lives lean and giving back to the sport that made them who they are.

Judging from the amount of young Sidney Piranhas and Pacific Coast Swimmers cheering on their UVic mentors, the next generations of Vikes are well on their way.

Dave MacDonald even said that he'd tell any future Vike "the secret location of the showers in the Clearihue Building."

He said he'd tell me once I qualified for CI's. Damn.

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Women bust a move at third annual clinic

by Ruth Knoop

On Feb. 22, the BC Eating Disorder Association held its third annual Women on the Move clinic. The clinic, which first ran in November 2000, is designed to create a comfortable space for women to explore and honour their bodies.

"We need to celebrate who we are!" said executive director Denise Hodgins.

The BC Eating Disorder Association shies away from the notion that "thin is in."

"It's not just about weight loss," said Hodgins. "We want women to focus on the fun, not only about the body image."

Hodgins believes that when women participate in a physical activity for the sheer purpose of image they often end up quitting because they hate it.

"When things come from a negative side they rarely stick," she said. "It becomes compulsive and the women soon tire of it. But, if a woman approaches it as a fun part of her lifestyle as opposed to crunching, she is more likely to make it stick."

More than 50 women participated in Saturday's clinic, choosing three workshops from a list of 15 that incorporated both mental and physical awareness. Workshops ranged from karate and belly dancing to self-care eating techniques. The purpose of the workshops was to introduce the women to a topic or exercise in hopes that they would enjoy it and continue to make it part of their lifestyle.

"There was a fabulous amount of energy," Hodgins said. "A nice amount of people came and everything was well-attended."

In fact, women had trouble making it to their later-scheduled workshops because they were absorbed by their earlier classes.

"People were constantly talking and making new friends from session to session," said Hodgins. "The feedback from the event has been nothing but positive."

The BC Eating Disorder Association hopes to repeat the success of this year's event in years to come. In the past, the clinic has been held in the fall, but Hodgins says they will stick to the February date for the future.

"It's a great time of year to hold it. Everyone is coming off the New Year's resolution high, and it's a good time to re-motivate them."

Following the clinic, the women were presented with the necessary information on support groups and recreational facilities around the Greater Victoria region in hopes that they will continue with their newly acquired skills.

photo by Lindsay Wiebe

"People were constantly talking and making friends," said Denise Hodgins of the third annual Women on the Move clinic, held Feb. 22 at McKinnon Gym.

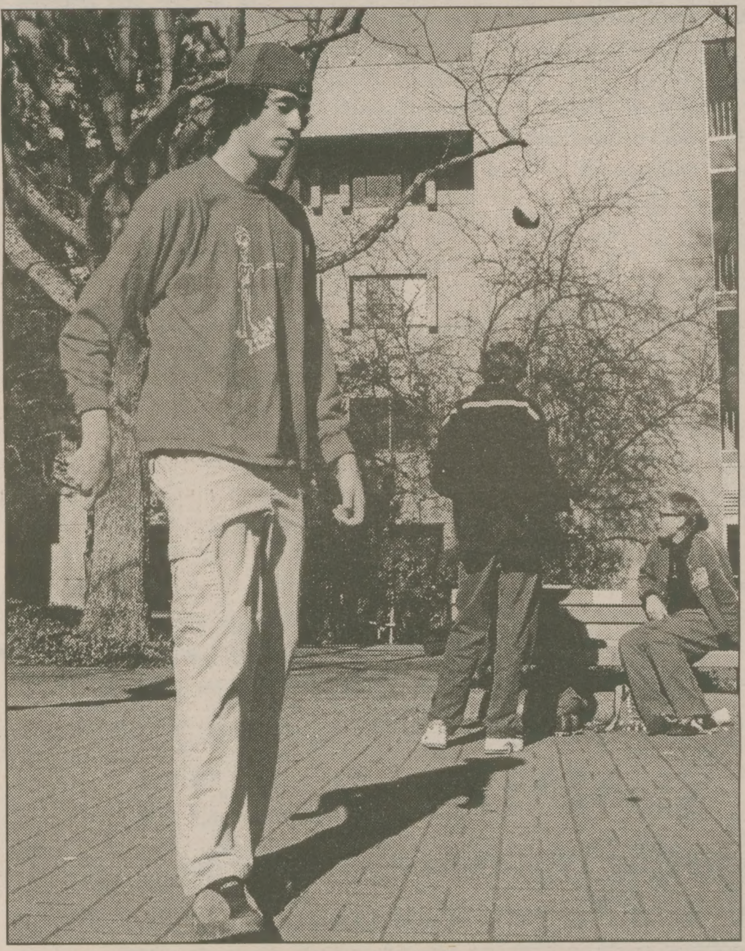


photo by Jenn Bowles

Lee Mackay engages a footbag (or hackeysack for all you pagans) in a staring contest near Petch Fountain. Someone's ass is about to get kicked.

Hockey all night long in Canada

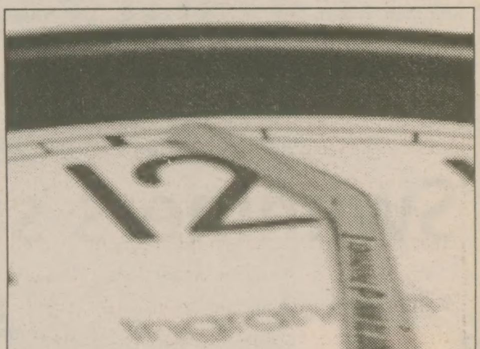
by Simon Corman
Illustration by Jeffrey Weston

Q: What do ball hockey, the Guinness Book of World Records, and the University of Victoria have in common?
A: The UVic Law Hockey For Kids campaign: a 24-hour ball hockey marathon for charity. The event is being organized and run by UVic law students, and all proceeds raised are being donated to the B.C. Children's Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children's Foundation.

Head organizer Justin McKinnon got the idea for the event while he was driving home from the airport in Ottawa and saw some kids playing ice hockey on an outdoor rink.

"Supporting child healthcare anywhere is important," says McKinnon, who is hoping the campaign will raise $10,000 and qualify in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest continuous ball hockey game.

The 24-hour event will take place Saturday, March 1 in parking lot 8, adjacent to the Fraser Building. Opening ceremonies are at 11:30 a.m. in the presence of Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe, Liberal M.P. David Anderson, and other local politicians. After the singing of the national anthem, two children's hospital patients will drop the ball in a ceremonial face-off.



"Sure, we can complain that we have to play hockey for 24 hours," says McKinnon, "but these kids would do anything just to play hockey... That's why we'd rather have the kids drop the ball instead of the politicians!"

All fundraising for the project has been student-initiated. Some 20 students volunteered to canvas businesses for money and sponsorship. While some businesses were less then helpful, other organizations were quick to offer their support. Home Depot donated all the wood and building materials required to make the playing surface, even going so far as to send three staff members to help design and build the ball hockey rink. However, many food donations couldn't be accepted because of the UVSS' food exclusivity contract, which states only food bought from union suppliers may be sold on campus. To offset this setback, the Dean of Law donated $1,000, while the Law Students' Society pitched in another $400.

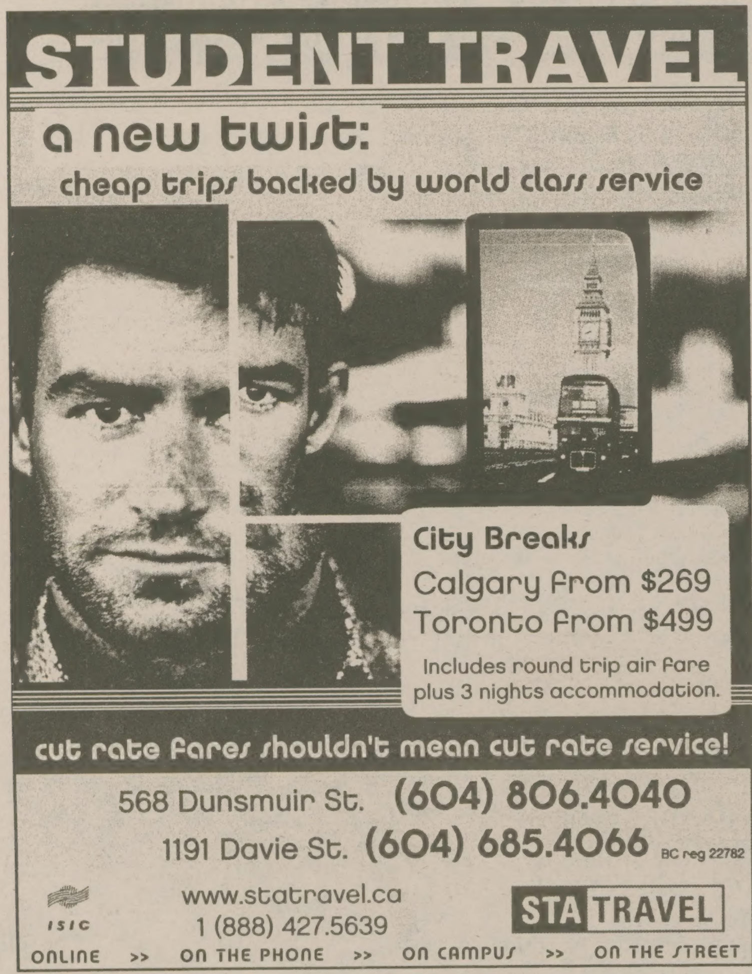
McKinnon believes the student fundraiser effort is a far greater accomplishment than larger donations made by multinational corporations.

"It's ironic that if Microsoft donates $1,000,000 to charity, it's front page news, despite the fact that they record hundreds of millions of dollars in profits annually," says McKinnon. "Compare this to students who raise $20,000 while eating Kraft Dinner every night! Any way you look at it, the student sacrifice is far greater."

For those who find it difficult to watch 24 hours of continuous ball hockey, other entertainment options are offered. A number of local bands are scheduled to play in a tent set up for the event. There will be food, sumo wrestling, raffles and of course you can even practice stuffing five dollar-bills in the donation boxes.

McKinnon hopes the event will bring a number of students from different faculties together, creating a sense of community seldom seen in the university setting. He also hopes that the fundraising project will become an annual event that will continue to set bigger goals: more money donated to a wide variety of different charities, and more celebrity support for the the game.

Anyone who would like to play ball hockey, donate or volunteer for the fundraiser can contact ballhockey4kids@hotmail.com.



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March 2 - 10:30am -4:30pm
at Elk Lake
VIKES
TIMES COLONIST

Still more letters

The new tree-sit explained

Students are wondering why a second tree-sitting platform has been installed high in a fir tree overlooking the Engineering Building parking lot. The university offered a 10-year moratorium on the cutting of forests, and people believe that after seven weeks of tree-sitting in the Cunningham Forest, we have made our point and gained our victory. Not so, unfortunately.

Anyone who has a closer look at the Campus Development Committee's moratorium announcement will see that it is full of ambiguities and weasel words. People are not satisfied with such statements as "...areas yet to be defined, but generally thought to include..."

Given the low priority environmental considerations are given on development decisions, we do not believe this announcement offers the kind of covenant protection forever that UVic's magnificent forests deserve.

Last week, we met with President Turpin and asked him to clarify the intent of the announcement, define these areas, and start using his powers to protect UVic's forested heritage, instead of signing off on its destruction. He couldn't even do that much. But further, the CDC's "good-news" announcement actually masks their subsequently produced recommendation to hack yet another swath off the Cunningham Forest.

The President was already stumping for the proposed location for the new Engineering Building back in January. This, in spite of his replies to letters of outrage over the Xmas Cunningham Forest desecration which state that "the university will take every care and consideration" to protect what's left of the forest. We know that the choice of this building location has been a done deal all along.

People are fed up with this administration's incessant destruction of UVic's forested areas. We are not at all against development at UVic and agree that we must meet the demand for university education. We know that there are plenty of options to grow the university without destroying its forests. We are tired of the weaseling and secrecy of UVic's dinosaurean development committee, and the continuation of the tree-sit ensures that we will maintain our veto over these clearly inadequate and short-sighted forest-cutting decisions.

Ingmar Lee

Still more on the Valerie Williams billboard

Anyone who drove along the Pat Bay Highway during December likely saw a billboard which read "Gluttony. Envy. Insincerity. Greed. Enjoy Your Christmas," ostensibly protesting the consumerism of Christmas.

At most, I was vaguely annoyed. If I needed to be reminded of the consumerism inherent in Christmas, I could have turned on the television. The billboard, erected by Valerie Williams – a UVic student – and her husband Trevor, did nothing to sway my sympathies. However, when I saw February's installment, reading "Rape Incest Racism Battery Homophobia Sexism Poverty Shame. Is this Valentine's Day?", I was baffled.

The answer that came to mind was a wholehearted "No." Incest has never really been a big part of Valentine's Day for me, but perhaps I'm in the minority. Apparently the sponsors of the billboard wish to make Valentine's Day a day to reflect on violence against women.

Personally, I think violence against women is serious enough that it deserves our attention year-round.

If we need a specific day to act on and remember violence against women, then how does Dec. 6 sound? Equating Valentine's Day with violence against women is a bit like using Thanksgiving to combat obesity.

"It's difficult to understand why we all contribute to violence in our society," Ms. Williams told the *Times Colonist*. "We have to start somewhere."

Might I suggest that obscure, overpriced, unsubstantiated, guilt-tripping billboards are a poor place to start?

"What if we took all the money we spent on (Valentine's presents) and give all that money to anti-violence against women groups?" suggests Williams.

If anything, the billboard discouraged this option, displaying a flagrantly frivolous expenditure by one such group.

What if you took the almost $3,000 you've spent on billboards and made a real difference?

Aidan Brand

Billboards

on campus

TEACH ENGLISH ABROAD! Want to earn $$$, pay off your student loan, travel and see the world? Career Services is offering a workshop on teaching English as a second language. March 13th, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. @ Career Services, Campus Services Building Room 110, next to the bookstore. Cost is $5. Register @ Career Services before March 13th. Learn how and hear from others who have been there.

***Bioloco* biology undergraduate newsletter** accepting submissions, articles, events and any extraordinary biology news! Deadline: Feb. 28. Contact hhermane@uvic.ca. Volunteers and artists needed.

UVIC GERMAN CLUB presents KARNEVAL! Friday, Mar. 7th in the Grad Lounge (IQ Bistro). Live Music from the Hoochy Girls! Tix only $5 and available Mar. 3–7th in the SUB (10–2) or at the door. Door prizes, prizes for best costume, dancing, contests! It's the German Mardi Gras! See you there. Doors at 8:00 p.m., band starts at 9:00 p.m. Lass die korken knallen!

M.S. Club Silent Auction. March 12, 2003. 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Michèle Pujol Room. Great deals! Great stuff! Great cause! Come help us find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis! www.msclubatuvic.com

New bicycle lockers have been installed on campus, so now is your chance to wheel into the affordable luxury of your own bicycle locker: private, protected, reserved, weather-proof parking for your two-wheeled friend. Visit the SUB Infobooth or phone 721-8355.

off campus

Traditional Karate lessons now available to UVic students at discount rates. Train with a certified instructor and learn the ancient art of Shito-Ryu Karate. Our goals are to increase your physical abilities, your self-defense skills and make sure you have FUN doing it! Excellent facilities at Planet Fitness/Women Zone (Shelbourne and McKenzie).
Call Kit: 886-5120.

announcements

We need your help! The M.S. Club is looking for people to donate articles for its Silent Auction fundraiser on March 12, 2003. If you have anything to donate or know of businesses that would like to donate, please contact the M.S. Club at cammcrae@uvic.ca.

Walk out against war! 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, students will walk out of their classes and gather outside the Student Union Building to demonstrate their opposition to the impending attack on Iraq, and celebrate the prospects for peace. Speakers will include local activists and academics. Musical artists Velvet will perform. Students gather in solidarity with an international movement against war.

A to B Taxi – Student Discounts! Best airport and ferry rates. Taxi@canada.com
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help wanted

CAMP COUNSELORS wanted for private Michigan boys/girls summer camps. Teach swimming, canoeing, skiing, sailing, sports, computers, tennis, archery, riding, crafts, climbing, golf, guitar & more! Office, maintenance jobs too. Salary $1700 on up plus room/bd.
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Student Works Painting needs a few outgoing part-time workers. Appr. 4 hrs/week for three months. Email: mramos@uvic.ca

***The Martlet*, UVic's student newspaper, this** paper you are holding, is hiring. We're looking for an Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor and Production Coordinator. Part-time in the summer, full-time from Sept. 2003 to April, 2004. Remuneration is $1,118 bi-weekly plus medical and dental benefits. Please contact Craig or Robin for full job description at (250) 721-8361. Apply in writing with resumé and cover letter. Deadline: March 7.

Summer Camp Counselors on-campus interviews for premier camps in Massachusetts. Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counselors in all team sports such as tennis & golf, waterfront and pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry & radio. GREAT SALARIES, room, board, travel and U.S. summer work visa. June 21st – August 17th. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more information and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com (Boys): 1-800-753-9118. DANBEE www.danbee.com (Girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus Monday, March 3rd – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Building (Michèle Pujol Room).

accommodations

Needed: One roommate to share house with two others. All appliances, hardwood floors, close to UVic/groceries/bus. One unfurnished bedroom available Feb. 1, 2003. $350 plus utilities per month. Shaw Internet, TV available. Bryn, 472-2796.

Bright, spacious basement suite. Available March 1st. Close to downtown. Fireplace, large backyard, quiet neighbourhood, and lots of parking. 592-7706.

Looking for roommate. Pref. Non smoker. Room in basement. Good size. $275 a month + 1/3rd bills. Call 388-9104. Close to UVic.

lost & found

Watch lost at Groovefest: At the coatcheck – my watch was put in the wrong backpack. White, analog face with a wide black and brown leather strap. If you found this watch, please call 519-0539.

hey you

M.S. – Miss that laundromat boy of last summer. Made me smile. Penny for your thoughts – not the coach's. Maybe the curls will make front page a second time...? (Hope so.)
– Spin Cycle Fan

#65 – You're gold! In the R. Frost sense and the brilliant sense. But I love it most that you wear grey socks – so comfy, so stylin.' Betcha you didn't know that.

To my delinquent roommate, I am not your mother. P.S. We voted you off the island.

U. – 3 a.m. You arrive with Doritos and a heavy heart and though it's surreal, it was ok. It will be ok. Must believe this world is still to be trusted. So love, mend, and know you're loved by many. – Feature Chick

Shot 97: Rich says, "Three more. I'm gonna be drunk for the rest of my life."

Billboard Rates

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
hey you!	free!

"If you were a laser you'd be set on stunning."

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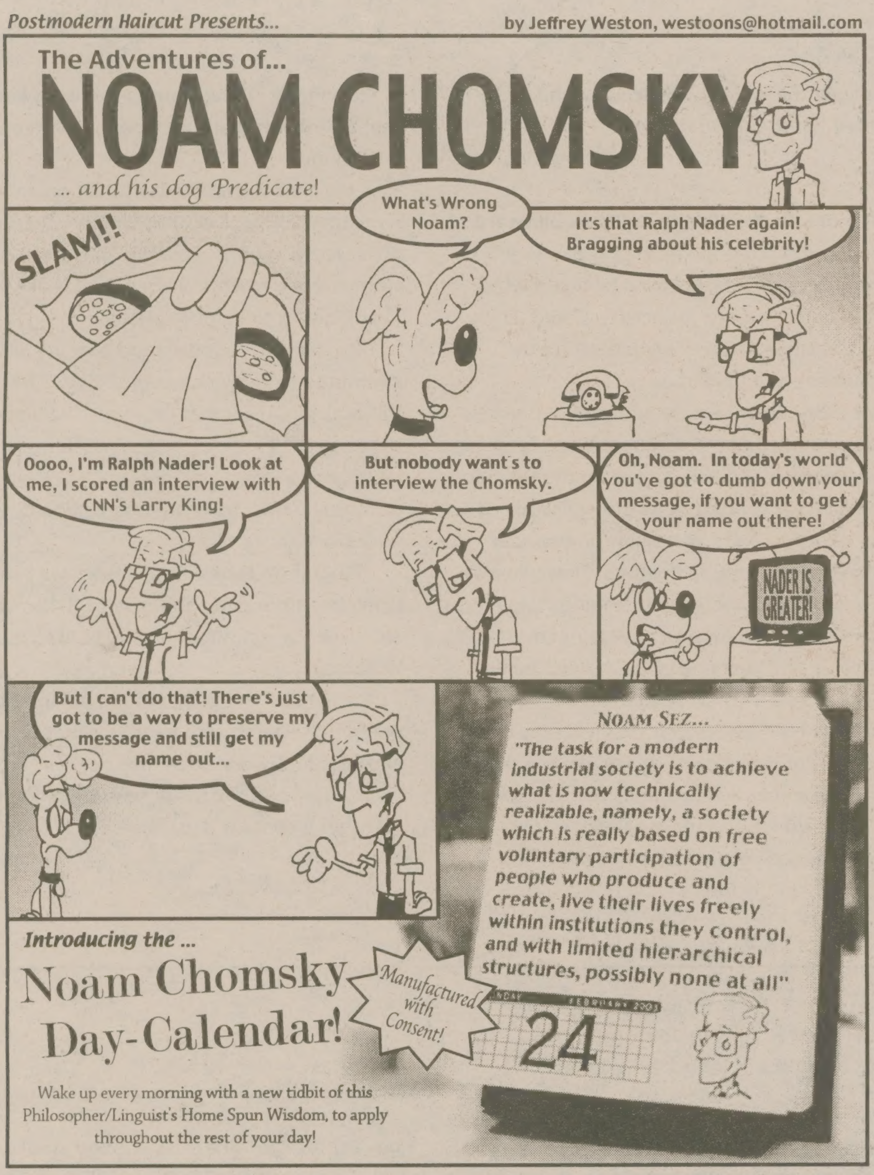
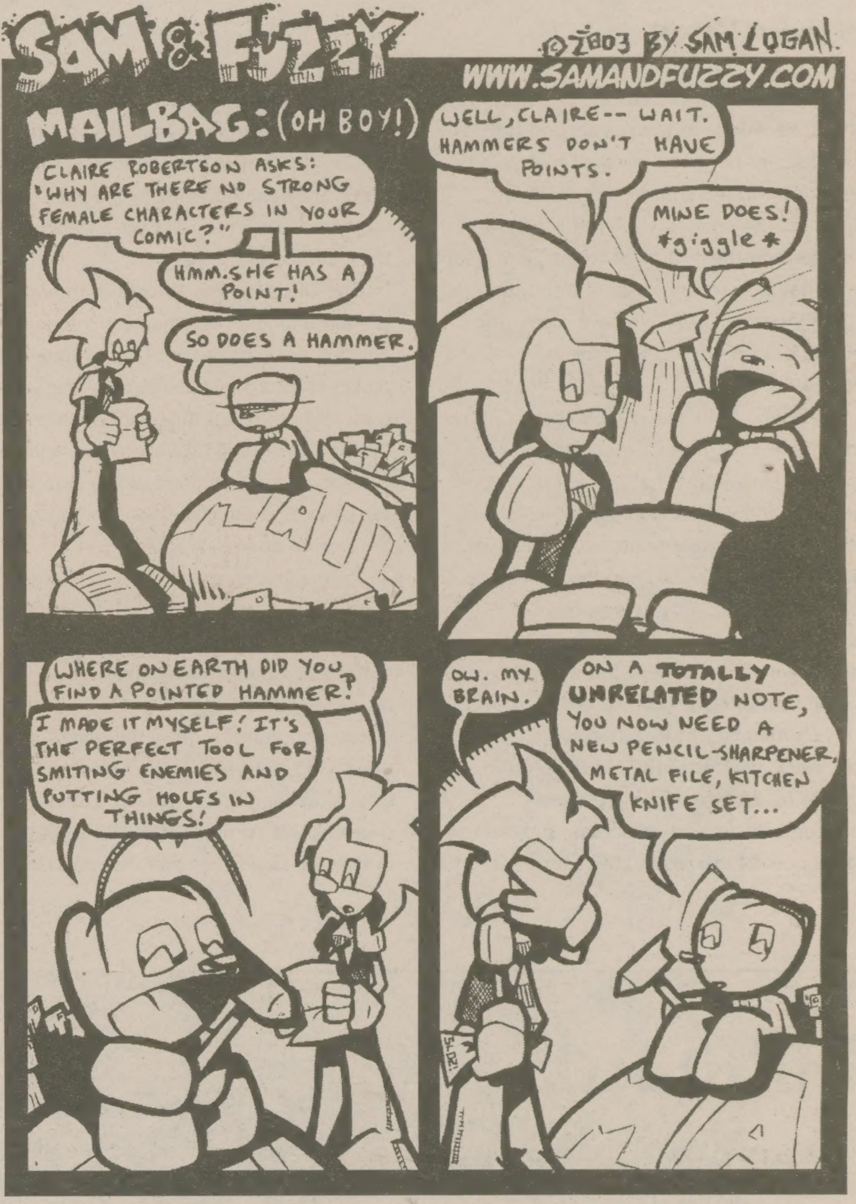

Postmodern Haircut Presents...
by Jeffrey Weston, westoons@hotmail.com
The Adventures of...
NOAM CHOMSKY
... and his dog Predicate!
SLAM!!
What's Wrong Noam?
It's that Ralph Nader again! Bragging about his celebrity!
Oooo, I'm Ralph Nader! Look at me, I scored an interview with CNN's Larry King!
But nobody want's to interview the Chomsky.
Oh, Noam. In today's world you've got to dumb down your message, if you want to get your name out there!
NADER IS GREATER!
But I can't do that! There's just got to be a way to preserve my message and still get my name out...
NOAM SEZ...
"The task for a modern industrial society is to achieve what is now technically realizable, namely, a society which is really based on free voluntary participation of people who produce and create, live their lives freely within institutions they control, and with limited hierarchical structures, possibly none at all"
24
Introducing the ...
Noam Chomsky Day-Calendar!
Manufactured with Consent!
Wake up every morning with a new tidbit of this Philosopher/Linguist's Home Spun Wisdom, to apply throughout the rest of your day!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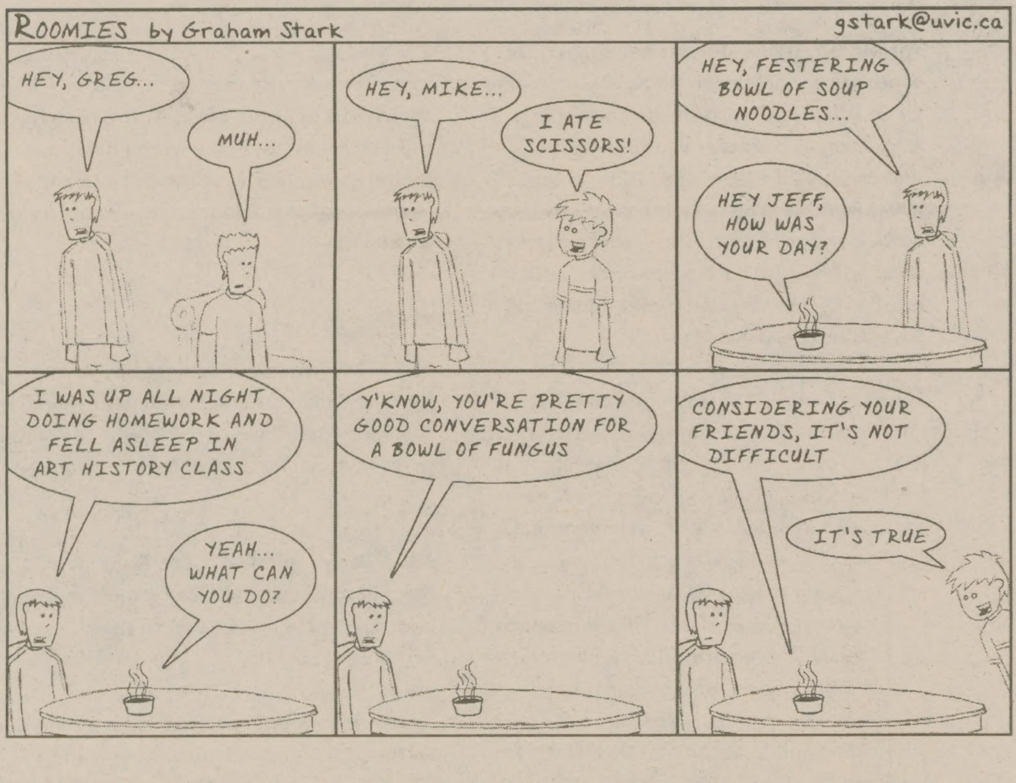
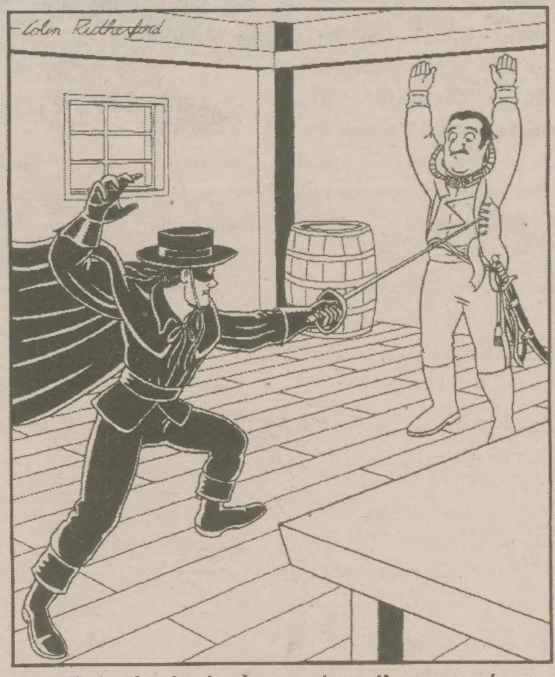
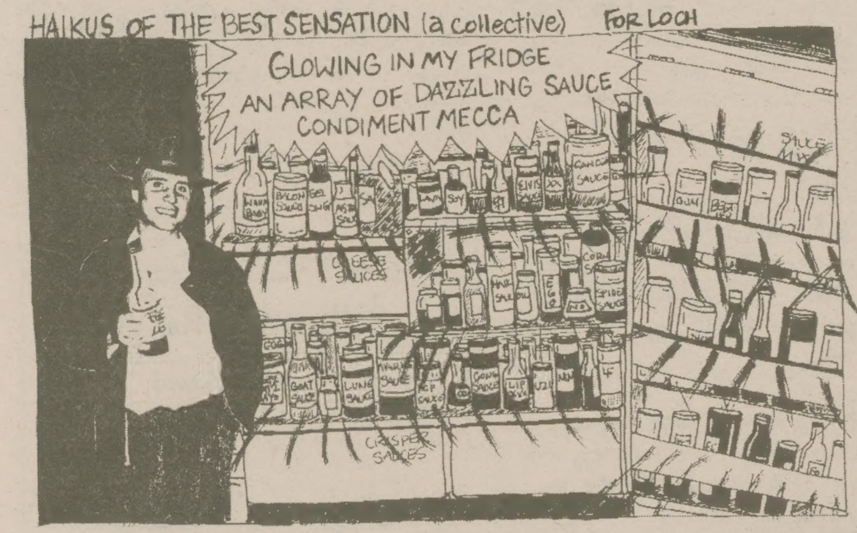
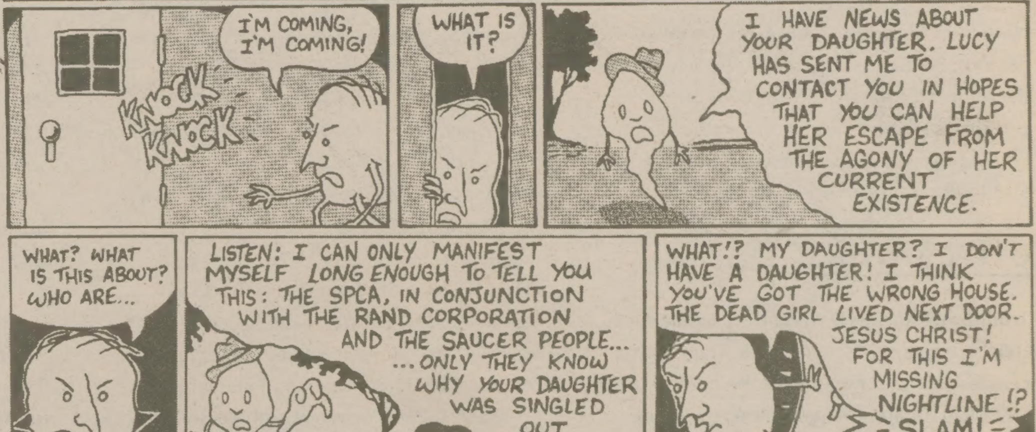
MAILBAG: (OH BOY!)
CLAIRE ROBERTSON ASKS: "WHY ARE THERE NO STRONG FEMALE CHARACTERS IN YOUR COMIC?"
HMM.SHE HAS A POINT!
SO DOES A HAMMER.
MAIL
WELL, CLAIRE-- WAIT. HAMMERS DON'T HAVE POINTS.
MINE DOES! *giggle*
WHERE ON EARTH DID YOU FIND A POINTED HAMMER?
I MADE IT MYSELF! IT'S THE PERFECT TOOL FOR SMITING ENEMIES AND PUTTING HOLES IN THINGS!
OW. MY BRAIN.
ON A TOTALLY UNRELATED NOTE, YOU NOW NEED A NEW PENCIL-SHARPENER, METAL FILE, KITCHEN KNIFE SET...


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
gstark@uvic.ca
HEY, GREG...
MUH...
HEY, MIKE...
I ATE SCISSORS!
HEY, FESTERING BOWL OF SOUP NOODLES...
HEY JEFF, HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
I WAS UP ALL NIGHT DOING HOMEWORK AND FELL ASLEEP IN ART HISTORY CLASS
YEAH... WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD CONVERSATION FOR A BOWL OF FUNGUS
CONSIDERING YOUR FRIENDS, IT'S NOT DIFFICULT
IT'S TRUE


Colin Rutherford

Zorro's dyslexia went undiagnosed for years.


HAIKUS OF THE BEST SENSATION (a collective) FOR LOCH
GLOWING IN MY FRIDGE
AN ARRAY OF DAZZLING SAUCE
CONDIMENT MECCA
CHEESE SAUCES
CRISPER SAUCES
SAUCE MIX


The Leprechaun Colony
gareth gaudin
KNOCK KNOCK
I'M COMING, I'M COMING!
WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE NEWS ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER. LUCY HAS SENT ME TO CONTACT YOU IN HOPES THAT YOU CAN HELP HER ESCAPE FROM THE AGONY OF HER CURRENT EXISTENCE.
WHAT? WHAT IS THIS ABOUT? WHO ARE...
LISTEN: I CAN ONLY MANIFEST MYSELF LONG ENOUGH TO TELL YOU THIS: THE SPCA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RAND CORPORATION AND THE SAUCER PEOPLE... ...ONLY THEY KNOW WHY YOUR DAUGHTER WAS SINGLED OUT.
WHAT!? MY DAUGHTER? I DON'T HAVE A DAUGHTER! I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG HOUSE. THE DEAD GIRL LIVED NEXT DOOR. JESUS CHRIST! FOR THIS I'M MISSING NIGHTLINE !?
SLAM!

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